

Manuscript NO: 65958

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6. There are 24 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%.

This research work from our group goes 25 years back, with every result reported leading to the next step. The sequence in this research is clearly reflected in our publications. Considering the Editor's suggestion, we drastically diminished our references from 24 to 12. This number is the minimum required for a reader to review and understand the clinical evidence on which our arrhythmic risk stratification proposal is based. Taking into account the broad spectrum of application of the two-step risk stratification approach in ischemic, non-ischemic, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, it is evident that 12 references are the minimum sufficient number to support our manuscript.

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