



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Cardiology*

**Manuscript NO:** 76298

**Title:** Heart Failure With Reduced, Mildly Reduced or Preserved Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction: Has Reasoning Been Lost?

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05427157

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Director, Staff Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-03-11

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-04-27 11:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-05 14:32

**Review time:** 8 Days and 2 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Overall nice concise manuscript highlighting current HF and ejection fraction directed classifications Edits: In first paragraph “lucking” I think it meant to say “lacking” In second paragraph European society classification HFREF should be less then or equal to 40 Suggestions: Authors should write a paragraph or two on what alternative options might be to consider in classifying CHF and need for validation studies and possibly developing universally accepted scoring system ( something like MELD scoring for liver failure)



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**Reviewer's code:** 03846820

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FACC, FESC, MD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Assistant Professor, Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Netherlands

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-03-11

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-07 05:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-07 09:25

**Review time:** 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Dear authors, The paper represents a letter to the editor concerning a concept of heart failure with reduced, mildly reduced or preserved left ventricular ejection fraction. The article is written with the good English-speaking adduction of the arguments. The article is sufficiently novel and very interesting to warrant publication. All the key elements are presented and described clearly. The most discussable options in the article are: 1) Would you please kindly correct all your minor typos and grammar errors throughout the manuscript. 2) I would strongly suggest you to avoid any strong judgements. All the revealed facts are of interest and very well-known being usually discussed during big conferences, but it might be better to deliver the certain message and not merely declaring something false. This is still a scientific journal and I would carefully ask you to harmonize the way how you judge the findings. Please underline the difference in the studied populations and conditions, maybe certain bias, but without abuse. 3) Regarding cut offs, it sounds now not entirely scientific. The reason for any cut-off is essentially a result of any trial. Would you please kindly build a Table with the Guidelines (that you analyzed, as from Figure 1) and relevant trials (that were a reason for a particular cut-off). In that case we can appreciate all the arguments about reasoning.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05827902

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FACC, MD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-03-11

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-11 02:30

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-12 02:53

**Review time:** 1 Day

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors have expressed their opinion on the validity on LVEF as the basis for classification of congestive heart failure. Although it is true there are minor variations in the definitions of various categories of CHF, most guidelines agree with the definition of HFrEF as LVEF of <40% with a notable exception of guidelines from Australia and New Zealand. In general, an LVEF of >55% is considered normal in most guidelines. The authors bring out a good point that there may be sexual variations in normal ranges for LVEF based on studies pointed by the authors, although the differences are between normal ranges are minor (5-10%). It is also being recognized in recent studies that hyperdynamic LVEF may also have adverse prognostic implications. The classification of CHF based on LVEF has worked well in coordinating management of CHF patients over the past couple of decades with multiple high quality studies documenting improvement in survival with medication and device therapies for HFrEF. CHF is a worldwide problem responsible for considerable morbidity and mortality worldwide. The authors seem to suggest that it is time to eject LVEF from CHF classification but do not suggest any viable alternatives for classification that would help cardiologists and heart failure specialists manage patients with CHF effectively. Would recommend the authors to suggest those ideas in this letter as well.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05847926

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-07 12:29

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-12 15:42

**Review time:** 5 Days and 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In this manuscript, the authors discussed the limitations related to the current LVEF based classification of HF and provided examples of erroneous conclusions that could be drawn, especially in HF patients at the higher end of the HF spectrum. The author's focus is very novel and important, and puts forward very meaningful opinions on the current diagnostic criteria and classification of heart failure. I think this problem is worthy of attention. Furthermore, I hope the author can try to explain the potential reasons for this difference according to literature review and analysis, which may be more enlightening for us to understand this problem. In addition, the author's keywords need to be modified. The all of six keywords listed at present do not represent the key points and importance of the content.



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**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

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**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-19 04:51

**Review time:** 12 Days and 17 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is a very interesting topic. There are so many factors that influence EF, thus it is not enough to divide heart failure just by EF. I hope that in the future there will be more comprehensive indicators to distinguish heart failure.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Academic degree:** FACC, FESC, MD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Assistant Professor, Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Netherlands

**Author's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-03-11

**Reviewer chosen by:** Han Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-06-13 14:32

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-13 15:08

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Dear authors, Thank you for your substantial efforts to improve the article.



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**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

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**Review time:** 1 Hour

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<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I think this problem is worthy of attention.