

Review of: "Efficacy and Safety of External Extracorporeal Counterpulsation in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The literature about the use of external counterpulsation for the management of heart failure is very limited. The available literature mainly focuses on patients with HFrEF. Very few data are reported regarding the use of this method in HFpEF patients, thus I believe it is premature to write a review.

I suggest the following major revisions:

1. Specify whether it is intended to be a narrative review or a systematic review; in this case, it should be more clearly stated which scientific literature was reviewed, which databases were used, and with which keywords.
2. The title refers to the efficacy of external counterpulsation in HFpEF. However, the text mentions the clinical, laboratory, and instrumental benefits obtained from the use of this method in other patient categories, such as in the management of refractory angina or the treatment of patients with HFrEF. The text correctly examines the pathophysiological premises for the use of EECP in HFpEF, but does not report any published data regarding improvements in HFpEF patients.
3. The standard EECP treatment protocol, which has been effective in patients with HFrEF and refractory angina, is described, but it is unclear whether the same method and treatment duration could be beneficial in HFpEF patients.
4. What kind of benefit is expected? Symptom improvement? Reduction in hospitalizations per year? Improvement in echocardiographic and laboratory data?
5. The bibliographic references are not up-to-date; most of them pertain to literature published before 2010.