Dear Editorial Board for Journal of Hospital Medicine,

Thank you again for your input regarding our manuscript entitled "Effect of Transesophageal Echocardiography on Management of Patients Over 50 with Stroke of Uncertain Etiology and Normal Transthoracic Echocardiogram" (JHM-15-0216.R1). We appreciate the opportunity to take into account the additional feedback to our manuscript. Specific responses are listed below.

1. Change title to "Impact of Transesophageal Echocardiography on Clinical Management of Patients Over Age 50 with Cryptogenic Stroke and Normal Transthoracic Echocardiogram"

This was changed in the revised manuscript.  
  
2. Abstract, line 30. Change Conclusion wording to, "In our study population, when performed subsequent to a normal TTE in patients > age 50 with cryptogenic stroke, TEE demonstrated a high diagnostic value, but had minimal incremental effect on patient management."

This was changed in the conclusion.  
  
3. Even though this was done as a QA project, the interaction with your local IRB and their determination of project status should still be noted in the methods section.  Suggest the following language inserted as in a new paragraph beginning on page 4, line 37.  
-"The study was submitted to our IRB. As no patient identifiers were stored and we used previously existing data from an institutional echocardiography database to conduct the study, it was determined to be exempt."

This was added to the manuscript.  
  
4. Page 7, Line 51 (limitations paragraph). As pointed out in your response to reviewers, you did not measure patient perception of value from the TEE in terms of knowing a diagnosis-this should be listed as another limitation.  Suggest adding the following sentence, beginning on Line 60.  
"Lastly, we focused this study on immediate changes in clinical management prompted by TEE results, and did not assess patient perceptions of TEE value related to enhanced knowledge about the etiology of their stroke; this area represents an opportunity for further research."

This was added to the manuscript  
  
5. Page 7, Line 33. Start that paragraph with "Our study differs from prior studies..."

This was changed in the manuscript

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