Authors’ response

Sir,

We thank Al-Mendalawi\(^1\) for the interest expressed in our study.\(^2\) We had observed that endocardial cushion defects (ECDs) were detected in 29.7% of the patients.\(^2\) Al-Mendalawi\(^3\) state that the prevalence of ECD in Down’s syndrome (DS) patients documented in our study\(^2\) is less than the 50% figure reported worldwide.\(^3\)

We feel that this is because our study\(^2\) was a hospital-based study conducted in a single public sector tertiary care teaching hospital in a resource-poor setting. At our centre, only two-dimensional (2D) echocardiography is available. Given the paucity of data on this subject from Andhra Pradesh state where Tirupati is located, and the limited availability, accessibility and affordability of three-dimensional echocardiography, even after giving allowance to variations in the awareness of the echocardiographers on the anatomic elements of ECD and their skills, pointed out by Al-Mendalawi,\(^1\) we feel that the data reported by us are clinically useful.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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