Reviewer's report

Title: Single-center experience with levosimendan in children undergoing cardiac surgery and in children with decompensated heart failure

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Reviewer: Yuksel Cavusoglu

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

In this retrospective analysis, author(s) presents the single-center experience of the use of levosimendan in children who are undergoing cardiac surgery and who have cardiomyopathy or decompensated heart failure and also present the results of questionnaire for physicians regarding their clinical perception of levosimendan.

As has been mentioned in their paper, although levosimendan is the proven- and well-investigated inotropic agent in adults, data on its use in pediatric population is limited and their work, probably, is the largest analysis up to now. Because there is a lack of randomized controlled studies on the use of levosimendan in this patient population, the present report, in my opinion, has a special importance.

The manuscript is generally well written and presented and the main publications are cited and the limitations of their work have been discussed with objectivity. In my opinion, the manuscript represents a nice addition to a growing body of literature on the use of levosimendan in pediatric heart failure patients and might highlight potential indications that need to be proven in the future.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received speaker fee from Abbott about the local meeting on levosimendan