Reviewer's report

Title: Atrioventricular block of intraoperative device closure perimembranous ventricular septal defects; a serious complication

Version: 1 Date: 17 January 2012

Reviewer: Quansheng Xingqs

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors

This is a series of 97 patients having intraoperative or perventricular device closure of perimembranous VSDs. 95 cases (97.94%) were successfully occluded with this technique. Two patients present complete atrioventricular heart block (cAVB). One cAVB case during the procedure was converted to open heart surgery and another on the 7th postoperative day received surgical closure of the VSD after removal of the device. Both of them completely recovered to normal sinus rhythm. The authors did excellent work about applying this technique to treat VSD patients, but as for limited cases and only description of the results, this manuscript seemed to be a case report rather an original paper focusing on the issue of AVB. It did not provide very much sense data and information about the reason or mechanism of cAVB related to intraoperative or perventricular device closure VSD.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.