Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictive factors for pacemaker requirement after transcatheater aortic valve implantation

Version: 1 Date: 18 July 2012

Reviewer: Klaus Empen

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Akin et al. describes differences of electrocardiographic parameters (surface and intracardiac) between patients with pacemaker (PM) implantation after TAVI compared to patients without PM implantation.

This study has several weaknesses, i.e. its retrospective design, the relatively low number of patients, the relatively high rate of PM implantation, especially those patients with a "debatable" indication for PM implantation, i.e. prolongation of HV time (> 75 msec) and new LBBB, as the authors stated.

One of the major strengths of the study is derived from the intracardiac ECG measurements and their association with the need for PM implantation.

However, the authors should state more clearly, whether intracardiac ECG measurements were repeated 7 days after TAVI in all patients - as it is supposed by their figure 2.

Minor comment: I would suggest to revise figures 1 and 2 and replace the asterisks (* and **, encoding for pre and post TAVI) by other terms.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 no competing interests. KE