Reviewer's report

Title: Atrial fibrillation alters the microRNA expression profiles of the left atria of patients with mitral stenosis

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Reviewer: Baofeng Yang

Reviewer's report:

The paper “Atrial fibrillation alters the microRNA expression profiles of the left atria of patients with mitral stenosis.” evaluated the miRNA expression profiles of left atrial tissues from mitral stenosis (MS) patients with AF or in normal sinus rhythm (NSR). There is a conspicuous question in your paper. Your research was so similar with “MicroRNA expression signature in atrial fibrillation with mitral stenosis.”, while results showed that 22 miRNAs differently expressed in LAA tissues between MS patients with AF or NSR, only “hsa-miR-26a-5p” was also downregulated among 28 deregulated miRNAs in MS with AF compared with MS without AF in RAA, the others were completely different in two papers. What caused the significant difference between LAA and RAA? In addition, you may complete some functional experiments in vitro about at least one microRNA to proof your conclusion and its potential targets.

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 declare that I have no competing interests