Author's response to reviews

Title: The search for valved conduit tissue grafts for adults (>22mm): An ultrasonographic study of jugular vein diameters of horses and cattle

Authors:

Colin C Schwarzwald (cschwarzwald@vetclinics.uzh.ch)
Rolf Jenni (rolf_jenni@bluewin.ch)

Version: 3 Date: 5 July 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
July 4, 2009

Re: The search for valved conduit tissue grafts for adults (>22mm): An ultrasonographic study of jugular vein diameters of horses and cattle. Schwarzwald CC, Jenni R.

Dear Editor.

Please find enclosed the current version of the manuscript we wish to publish in *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*. We appreciate the reviewers’ effort to scrutinize and to improve our paper. We have revised the manuscript according to their reports.

The first reviewer (JH) did not have any suggestions or concerns and considered the methodology, results, and discussion being ‘simple, clearly expressed, and well set’. Therefore, no changes appeared necessary based on the first reviewer’s report.

The second reviewer (RGHM) requested some language correction and revision for some minor spelling mistakes. Accordingly, the manuscript was completely revised and corrected. We hope that language and style are now acceptable for publication. This reviewer further suggested that ‘the authors should look at the experiences with smaller bovine grafts more extensive in their discussion’. However, we feel that the background of our study is sufficiently covered in the introduction. In our opinion, a more detailed discussion of the current experiences with smaller xenografts would exceed the scope of this short communication-type manuscript. Therefore we decided to focus the discussion on the results of this
particular study, inasmuch as the first reviewer also considered the discussion as ‘well set and supported by a well-selected bibliography’.

We hope that the editor and the reviewers will accept our response. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Colin C. Schwarzwald
Dr. med. vet., PhD, Dipl. ACVIM