Reviewer's report

Title: Subspecialty surveillance of long-term course of small and moderate muscular ventricular septal defect: heterogeneous practices, low yield.

Version: 2 Date: 11 August 2014

Reviewer: David M Kalfa

Reviewer's report:

This paper is interesting and well written. It showed in a large series of moderate or smaller mVSD, that intensity of f/u of hemodynamically insignificant mVSDs was highly variable among cardiologists in a same center and that f/u was commonly recommended but resulted in no active medical or surgical management.

The manuscript should be improved, taking into account the following comments.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- a statement should be added on the previous surgeries that these patients could potentially have had before follow-up.
- add in the abstract the notion of "hemodynamically insignificant" VSDs. This is a very important point to really understand the paper and its clinical pertinence.
- 60 patients were followed for multiple small mVSDs: did any of these patients have a swiss cheese septum? I guess no, since only hemodynamically insignificant VSDs were followed, but that should be clearly stated.
- The incidence of the rate of spontaneous closure of the VSDs should be preciser in the manuscript. Even if it's not the aim of the study, it is an important information that the reader would be interested in.
- Authors should report the results of the univariate analysis (studies variables and p-values)
- authors should precise OR and confidence intervals for the multivariate analysis (in table 3)

Minor Essential Revisions:
- give a definition of "small" and "moderate" VSDs size.
- in the discussion: the impact of a useless follow-up on the quality of life of the parents and the patients should be discussed even if this topic was not specifically investigated in this study.

Discretionary Revisions:
none

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests