Reviewer’s report

Title: Outcome Of Major Cardiac Injuries At A Canadian Trauma Centre

Authors:

Khaled Alanezi (alanezik@hotmail.com)
G. Scott Milencoff (smilencoff@yahoo.com)
Frank GH Baillie (Baillief@mcmaster.ca)
Andre Lamy (lamya@mcmaster.ca)
John D Urschel (urschelj@mcmaster.ca)

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Reviewer: Dr Riyad Karmy-Jones

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is a "tight" review that emphasizes the fact that even in "low volume" centers excellent results can be achieved when an appropriate planned response is in place.

The results further emphasize the benefit of sternotomy and the usefulness of getting patients to the OR without delay.

Pericardiocentesis was used in 4 cases. Why? As a temporizing measure in patient with tamponade, particularly before intubation, this is a useful intervention. It should not be used as a diagnostic tool.

What chambers were involved? Were stab wounds isolated while blunt and GSW involving more than one? What repair techniques were used? Were there any "control" approaches (e.g. Foley catheter?)

Was CPB used either to assist repair or resuscitation? Do the authors have recommendations about this

Were patients intubated pre-hospital? Did this have an impact?

The numbers are small but I suspect a multivariate analysis will identify absence of VS on admission, followed by blunt trauma as being independently bleak predictors.

Competing interests:

None declared.