Reviewer's report

Title: Supraventricular tachyarrhythmias after lung cancer surgery. Is amiodarone a safe antiarrhythmic to use?

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Reviewer: Urs Bauersfeld

Reviewer's report:

General

Barbetakis et al. present a well-written paper addressing supraventricular arrhythmias after lung cancer surgery and amiodarone treatment. The paper is certainly of interest for all involved in the treatment of lung surgery patients. The design of the study, the results and the conclusions are clear. The paper may have practical implications in the treatment of lung surgery patients with supraventricular arrhythmias.

As the authors state the subject of this study is described in several papers. However, the advantage of this presentation is the prospective design of the study. The questions the authors want to address are clearly defined.

The methods are well described. Some more information concerning baseline rhythm, drug applications and amiodarone side effects would be helpful (minor revisions):
- Were standard ECG recorded before surgery?
- Were QTc prolongations noted and analyzed after surgery and after amiodarone administration?
- Information about postoperative medications is quite general. Were QT prolonging drugs (for example antibiotics) avoided?
- As surgical dissection of autonomic nervous tissue, QT prolonging drugs in combination with amiodarone and postoperative states may alter QTc a comment about these issues would be helpful.

The results are clearly described. Some information is redundant and could be omitted (minor revisions):
- <statistically significant or not significant> is stated with the results although the authors state what is considered significant in the methods section.
- The information of table 2 could be integrated in the results text section.
- The circumstances leading to death are only described in 5/8 patients.

The discussion is well balanced and gives an interesting overview of explanations for postoperative arrhythmias. There are 2 minor comments:
- The authors probably mean ingestion rather than assumption of b-blockers?
- Calcium channel blockers are considered contraindicated in patients with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. There should be a clear statement.

The title may include <...Is amiodarone a safe and effective...>. The abstract is clear (again b-blocker assumption).

There are only minor grammar errors.
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: None