Reviewer's report

Title: Decision-making in percutaneous coronary intervention: a survey

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Reviewer: Vipin Zamvar

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Using a questionnaire based survey, the authors set out to study the perceptions of referring physicians regarding the decision making process for coronary percutaneous interventions (PCI).

The authors found that non-cardiologist physicians felt removed from the decision making process, and felt unhappy about it. On the other hand, non-interventionalist cardiologists felt involved in the decision making process. This could be due to a variety of reasons, one of them being the physical proximity of interventional and non-interventional cardiologists when an angiogram is performed, and a decision is being made.

This study only addresses the perceptions of referring physicians. The authors do not offer any suggestions on how this can be addressed, or whether it needs to be addressed.

Would it be reasonable to expect the interventionalist cardiologist to actually discuss a case with the referring physician when an angiogram has just been performed, and PCI is a likely option? The referring physician might be at another location, might be busy with other commitments, or simply because of the nature of their training and experience may not be in a position to contribute to the decision making process. Maybe it is a matter of courtesy that the interventionalist cardiologist should give information about the angiogram and revascularisation decision in a timely manner to the referring physician.

What would have been very advantageous if questionnaire included an item on whether the referring physician felt happy about PCI being the correct option.

Some other comments:

1) The details given in the Methods section are not very detailed. It would be better to include the complete questionnaire at the end of the paper as an Appendix.

2) References 1 to 3 are quite dated. The paper would be improved by adding the following reference as well "Variations in clinical decision making process between cardiologists and cardiac surgeons: a case for management by multidisciplinary teams? MA Denvir, et al (Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery 2006,1:2)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
None