Reviewer's report

Title: Wait, treat and see: echocardiographic monitoring of brain-dead potential donors with stunned heart

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Reviewer: Ana A Djordjevic-Dikic

Reviewer's report:

In the presented article authors addressed an important health problem related to the donor organ shortage for the patients waiting for heart transplantation.

The authors made an attempt to implement extended intensive treatment with hormonal therapy in “marginal donors” i.e. brain-dead patients with hemodynamic instability.

The paper is well written. The low sample size and the fact that this is a single center experience do not diminish the clinical importance of this work. The authors indicated the shortage of the study in section “Study limitations”, and having in mind the difficulties in performing an echocardiography study in these given circumstances, this is acceptable.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I think that the authors overlooked the mistake: The study flow chart (Fig 1) is not mentioned in the text; this should be mentioned in Methods.
2. All eight recipients were alive at the 6 month follow-up, this should be pointed out and corrected in Fig 1.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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