Reviewer’s report

Title: Minimal invasive periventricular device closure of ventricular septal defect in infants under transthoracic echocardiographic guidance: feasibility and comparison with transesophageal echocardiography

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2013

Reviewer: Lorenza Pratali

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript written by Zhang G. and colleagues reported the feasibility of TTE guidance for minimal invasive periventricular device closure in comparison with TEE methods. This author has recently published a paper on this argument as initial experience. The present manuscript under revision presents interesting results, although the study was retrospective, because the author compares the TTE with TEE and performs the follow up (mean FU 3 months).

There are some major revisions that had to be followed or it’s not possible to decide if this paper is acceptable to be published.

- Pag 7 line 15 “TTE is inferior to TTE” should be “TTE is inferior to TEE”

- Results: the data regarding follow up should be presented with an appropriate statistical analysis

- The discussion had to be organized. Maybe a small chapter on the inclusion criteria for VSD device closure should addressed, to avoid to repeated the same concepts as in page 8 lines 6-18 and page 9 lines 7-20.

- The significance of this paper is to underline the importance in TTE similar to TEE so the authors should show predominantly figures regarding TTE imaging. Should be important to add in the figures arrows or other markers to explain which are the suitable types of VSD for device closure: i.e. aortic rim at least 2 mm

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests