Author's response to reviews

Title: Interventional Bronchoscopy for Benign Tracheobronchial Diseases under Cardiopulmonary Bypass Support: Case Reports and Literature Review

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many thanks for the email and the feedback. I understand that the following are the areas that needed reviewing:

1- Whether or not the second patient underwent cardiac evaluation, and if so, which?

2- Deleting repeated word (Department of) from the title page.

3- Correcting a spelling mistake (Ronchi to rhonchi) in line 3.

4- Conclude that fem-fem CPB can be used safely in difficult airway situations rather than advocating its routine use.

5- Further discretionary revisions:

a. Literature review of how many times CPB was used and how many times it was kept on standby.

b. Any morbidity or mortality directly related to the use of CPB in these circumstances.

I have made the following amendments:

1- The pre-operative cardiac evaluation that the patient underwent was mentioned, nevertheless the patient, in our view, did not need to undergo echocardiogram or stress ECG test.

2- The repeated phrase (Department of) was deleted.

3- The typing error/spelling mistake of the word rhonchi was corrected.

4- The conclusion was re-worded to reduce exaggeration or exploitation and to accommodate the reviewer’s opinion. Nevertheless, it is worth clarifying here that we did not advocate the use of CPB based on one case, rather our conclusion was that CPB is safe to apply and can be life saving was based on the literature review as well.

5- An updated search was made which, to our knowledge, further suggested that
there are no reports of the use of CPB in benign airway conditions in the English literature. Nevertheless, I found an abstract in English for a single case report from Japan where the patient presented with tuberculous tracheobronchial stenosis. The article itself was in Japanese. Similarly, I found a few case series abstracts in English, but as the main article was in Japanese, I could not find out the level of review provided. These references were added to my list as appropriate for additional reading.

6- A complete listing of the airway stenting cases in which CPB was utilized is beyond the scope of my review and it deserves a review of its own.

I hope this was helpful, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind Regards,

Hussamuddin Adwan