Title: The performance of Contegra conduit for reconstruction of the right ventricular outflow tract: a review

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Reviewer: Emmanouil Kapetanakis

Reviewer's report:

In this retrospective review of the available published literature Protopapas and Athanasiou attempt to present a comprehensive picture on the use of the Contegra Jugular vein valved conduit. The Contegra conduit has been in use for over seven years and the results of its usage thus far have been mixed. Although a number of surgeons report excellent short and medium term results there is a concern in terms of its long term performance.

The authors performed a literature search to identify and extract data from sixteen reports on the use of the Contegra conduit over a period of six years.

Data from a total of 755 patients were collated and outcomes of mortality and morbidity were analyzed and presented. The issues raised by the cardiac surgery community on the use of the Contegra are then presented and discussed in the conclusions section.

Overall this manuscript is a good all around report on the outcomes of this highly specific implement/conduit. Although the manuscript’s focus is in congenital cardiac surgical procedures it raises important issues in terms of long term follow up and over enthusiasm with newly introduced devices/techniques. The manuscript is well written and flows well although I did have some difficulty understanding the tables provided (especially Table 3 and 4). I would suggest they are simplified/condensed or the data presented in the results section.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests in relation to this paper.