Reviewer’s report

Title: Extracardiac Fontan with T-shape conduit in non-confluent pulmonary arteries

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2007

Reviewer: Yoshihisa Tanoue

Reviewer’s report:

General

In this “case report” manuscript Lee and colleagues report on their experience with “Extracardiac-conduit TCPC in the functional single ventricle with non-confluent pulmonary arteries”. This case report is the potential informative and important, but there is the room should be improved.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Authors emphasize only the final operation, T-shaped extracardiac conduit TCPC in this case report. However, the multi-stepped graft replacement operations for central pulmonary artery parallel to the three staged strategy (BT, BDG, and TCPC) should be emphasized. First palliative operation would decide the fate of the patient in this report.

2. It is difficult for readers to make an image of the operations in the present case without figures. Schematic operative findings of not only T-shaped extracardiac conduit TCPC but also first palliation and BDG are necessary.

3. Cardiac catheterization data is not enough. The values of PA pressure, PA-index of native pulmonary arteries, etc. are necessary and the course before and after three-operations (first palliation, BDG, and TCPC) are also important.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. The usage of space, comma, and parenthesis should be corrected.

2. Body weight and surgical approach (probably via median sternotomy?) at first palliation and BDG should be added.

3. The terms of PTFE and Gore-Tex should be uniformed.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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