Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 7 July 2007

Reviewer: Jinfen Liu

Reviewer’s report:

General
This case report is very interesting about Fontan procedure for DIRV patient without confluent pulmonary arteries. Upsizing conduit connection step by step is a good idea; I think I may use this method in my Fontan patients who needs conduit connection in staged procedure.

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

I think, if possible, could Dr. Lee describe patient's preoperative data in detail, such as assess Nakata index of those slim pulmonary arteries. And also could offer 1 or 2 angiography or echocardiography picture to show patient’s pulmonary arterial condition. Only 2 pictures may not be enough for such an interesting case report.

Sentences and interpretation in whole report are very good, there isn’t any difficulty for cardiac surgical colleagues to read and understand.

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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)

The picture of pre-designed T shaped PTFE conduit is not very good. Could Dr. Lee re-shoot a photo for this special conduit to show both arms and vertical part of it? If possible, Dr. Lee can shoot 2 or 3 photos, and combine them into 1 picture with Photoshop software?

And in discussion, I suggest Dr. Lee give us more information about the design detail about the T tube.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I only want to know, this special pre-designed PTFE conduit is sewn with 2 conduits, with shaping them and combining both into a T shape. But for those end-to-side connected PTFE conduits. How did you decide the opening shape which was made on horizontal conduit. Only cut it open or make a hole? How about the shape of that hole? Have you pre-test the flow performance about that
T conduit? It is very special and important for any self-made or self-designed tube.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**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.