Reviewer's report

Title: Intravenous levosimendan-norepinephrine combination during off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting in a hemodialysis patient with severe myocardial dysfunction

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Reviewer: Mihalis Argiriou

Reviewer's report:

The abstract is short but concise. However, as many readers will only read the abstract without actually going over the entire paper, it might be useful to include drug doses in the abstract as well.

The case description is adequate, but some more details would make the description more complete. What was the etiology of renal failure? What type of pacemaker did he have? Estimated pulmonary artery pressures (the authors stated the patient had pulmonary hypertension).

"maximal medical therapy with nitrates, ACE inhibitors and aspirin" could the authors be more specific regarding which medications they used, and at what doses?

"later, when direct myocardial visualization confirmed severe biventricular distention, we also used TEE to monitor myocardial contractility" I think the above sentence is too detailed and complicated. Just stating "we also used TEE to monitor myocardial contractility" would suffice and make the text easier to read.

In the last paragraph of the discussion: "Vital signs remained postoperatively, except for an episode of hypotension". This sentence is incomplete. Did the authors mean to say "remained stable postoperatively"?

With regards to the conclusion, I would rephrase the text, because I think the message is that levosimendan can be used even in the presence of severe ICA stenosis, which makes patients particularly vulnerable to hypotension. I would therefore suggest rephrasing the conclusions as follows:

In conclusion, this case report suggests that combined levosimendan/norepinephrine IV infusion is a reasonable inotropic support option in patients with heart failure and ongoing myocardial ischemia, even in the presence of end-stage renal disease and severe bilateral internal carotid artery stenosis.

Overall, this is a well written, interesting case report. Language is good, with clear expressions, and the manuscript seems to comply with Instructions for Authors requirements. Despite several questions/issues for accepted for publication, assuming certain improvements, as recommended above.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'