Reviewer's report

Title: Risk Factors For Recurrent Stroke After Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2011

Reviewer: Yonggang Ma

Reviewer's report:

Comment Section

Summary
In the manuscript, Cao and colleagues recognized four independent risk factors, including unstable angina, LVEF ≤50%, post-operative AF and post-operative hypotension, for recurrent stroke in CABG patients with a history of stroke by retrospectively logistic regression analyses. The study is of great clinical significance for CABG patients with high risk of recurrent stroke. The strengths of this manuscript are that it is well written and the recent literature is properly cited. I do have a few comments which may improve the submission.

Major concerns
On-pump CABG patients had a higher incidence of stroke after surgery. In this study, 4 out of 34 (11.8%) post-operative stroke patients and 4 out of 398 control patients (1%) were operated through on-pump CABG mode, which may contribute to the findings. I am wondering that if we exclude all the on-pump CABG patients, what the result would be? I recommend that some discussion be added regarding the effect of the on-pump CABG patients to the results.

Minor concerns
1. Late stroke, in this study, was defined as stroke occurring from 24 hours after surgery until discharge. Are those patients who did not have recurrent stroke until discharge followed up for a longer time? Do you know if some of those had recurrent stroke after discharge?
2. The definition of post-operative systolic hypotension is vague. When did the hypotension occur, within or after 24 hours post-surgery?
3. The discussion section is quite lengthy and can be edited to be more concise and precise.

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.