Reviewer's report

Title: Marginal unit costs are falling as numbers of LVADs are growing: Experiences from Oslo University Hospital

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Reviewer: Stephan Schueler

Reviewer's report:

This report on the decreasing costs for long term LVAD's comes very timely. In times when budgets for hospitals are not as luxurious as they used to be, the cost effectiveness of new therapies are under scrutiny. The Oslo group very elegantly collected costing data on consecutive LVAD patients before the pump was put in, during and after discharge of patients. they analyzed 2 consecutive phases, and could very clearly demonstrated that with increasing numbers, and (more experience) the costs are coming down. The authors payed quite attention to detail, and followed up on their previous reports on similar topics. Since the paper addresses the most recent generation of LVAD's, it is probably the most relevant paper to date on this topic. particularly for European users, since the reimbursement systems are similar, and based on national public health care funding. therefore their results and conclusions can be translated into other countries reimbursement systems.

The paper is well written, the statistics are solid, and although a retrospective study, their results and conclusion are very valuable and important to be published in JCTS.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflict of interest