Reviewer's report

Title: Midterm Results after Arterial Switch Operation for Transposition of the Great Arteries: A Single Centre Experience

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Reviewer: Morteza Tavakkoli Hosseini

Reviewer's report:

In a retrospective study, Popov et al present their 10 year experience with Arterial Switch Operation for transposition of the great vessels from 1991 to 1999 at the University of Gottingen.

52 patients were included in the study and the results were assessed for mortality rate, coronary stenosis, distortion of pulmonary artery, dilatation of aortic root, and aortic regurgitation. Yacoub and Sauer’s classifications were referenced for addressing the different anatomical variations.

The overall mortality was 15.4% with the majority (87.5%) occurring at the early post-operative period. The predictors for poor post-operative outcome were quoted as pre-term birth, delayed surgery, old age, concomitant procedures, re-do surgery, prolonged ischemia, and lack of prostaglandin use before surgery.

This is a historic study, but the results are in line with the current literature and potentially interesting for the readership. I would like to recommend some modifications to the manuscript, in order to make it more fluent.

1. Yacoub and Sauer classifications need to be described in more details.

2. There are quite a few variations in the surgical techniques used for correction of TGA worldwide. Hence, University of Gottingen exact surgical technique needs to be briefly described in a paragraph.

3. There is some repetition of the data and results in the main text and the tables. It needs to be addressed in order to make the manuscript more concise and easier to read.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
None to declare.