Reviewer's report

Title: Atrial fibrillation following cardiac surgery: Risk analysis and long-term survival

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Reviewer: Carlo Rostagno

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1. The major comment to the paper is the extremely high incidence of POAF reported. With similar diagnostic criteria we found about half incidence of POAF. The authors do not report the number of patients discharged in AF and if persistence of AF is related to decreased long term survival in the POAF group. We agree that age is an independent factor related to POAF, no information are given between OP and CBP surgery. Another point to be discussed is the relative clinical weight of short asymptomatic POAF and symptomatic episodes or episodes requiring treatment, for which may be hypothesized a different clinical impact.

In the discussion section a more detailed analysis of the higher incidence of POAF in present study, also compared with studies with similar diagnostic criteria should be added.

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'