Reviewer’s report

Title: Extension of the right internal thoracic artery with the radial artery in extensive re-do coronary artery bypass grafting

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Reviewer: roberto di bartolomeo

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1 MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION

The authors reported an interesting approach used in 27 patients for myocardial revascularization on previous bypass surgery using the radial artery as elongation of the right internal mammary artery. They showed good results with this strategy in terms of in hospital mortality rate, considering also the well known difficulty of the re-do cases on coronary bypass surgery and the lack of conduits in those patients. Moreover this approach seems to require the patency of the previous left internal mammary artery on left anterior descending to be performed. The topic discussed in the manuscript may be considered in my opinion an interesting approach in case of redo for coronary bypass.

However there are in my opinion some parts of the manuscript that required to be improved by the authors before the publication.

The introduction should improved informing the readers from the beginning that this technique require a patent left internal mammary artery (LIMA) on left anterior descending (LAD), in fact it’s not mentioned in all the manuscript except than in the conclusion.

Moreover they mentioned in the methods that with this technique is possible to reach all three major vessels, but is not clear what they mean with “three vessels” considering that in the abstract’s conclusion all patients had a patent LIMA on LAD.

Data presentation is controversial and need to be revised: there are conflictual results about the number of the off pump cases, cardiopulmonary bypass cases, fibrillating heart, and clamped aorta.

The discussion is poor, the are no report of other centres experience with different techniques for redo in coronary bypass with their statistics reports, with few references that need to be increased. Moreover the first part of the discussion may be included in the results.

In conclusion even if the topic is interesting the manuscript needs important adjustments before publication.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

none