Reviewer's report

**Title:** Veno-venous Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation with a Bicaval Dual-Lumen Catheter in a SynCardia Total Artificial Heart Patient

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 June 2013

**Reviewer:** Michael Hess

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review the manuscript. Veno-venous Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation with a Bicaval Dual-Lumen Catheter in a SynCardia Total Artificial Heart Patient by Spiliopoulos from Duisburg, Germany.

This is a brief case report of a 55-year old man with a LAD infarct and subsequent cardiogenic shock. He first required ECMO with a veno-arterial system. This was not helpful and this system was explanted and the Syncardia TAH successfully implanted. Veno-veno ECMO was then successfully implanted. This was weaned after 191 hours and the patient stabilized and left the unit.

This is the second report of ECMO together with the TAH (reference 2) from the Arabia group in Arizona. The advance by Spiliopoulos et al is the addition of veno-veno ECMO which is more efficient and safe. Their observation indeed does extend the growing indication use and utility of the Syncardia TAH.

Finally, we do know that the patient left the ward but did the patient do well, proceed to transplant, or go home on a freedom driver, or stay in the hospital on an extended stay??

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests