Reviewer's report

Title: Ratio of Preoperative Atrial Natriuretic Peptide to Brain Natriuretic Peptide Predicts the Outcome of the Maze Procedure in Mitral Valve Disease

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Reviewer: Hitoshi Yaku

Reviewer's report:

The authors described that the preoperative ANP-to-BNP ratio was closely correlated to the outcome of the Maze procedure and to the fibrosis of the left atrium. This study would provide us with important information in the field of arrhythmia surgery. I would like to raise only one question regarding this index.

General Comments:
I believe that the ANP value basically reflects the loading condition of the atrium, and the BNP value reflects the loading condition of the ventricle. In the present study, they included patients who had a disease which cause overloading of the left atrium and then atrial fibrillation. The loading condition of the left ventricle, however, was not in the same direction among those patients. The left ventricle of the patients with mitral stenosis might be unloaded, and the left ventricle of the patients with mitral regurgitation should be overloaded. Therefore, the physiological meaning of the preoperative ANP-to-BNP ratio must be different between the two pathophysiological conditions. I suggest that they should analyze the importance of the ratio in those two categories separately.

Specific Comments:
They should put a label on each panel in Fig. 3.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.