Reviewer's report

Title: Depicting adverse events in cardiac theatre, The RECORD model

Version: 2 Date: 11 December 2012

Reviewer: SOTIRIS PAPASPYROS

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
General comments in relation to the content of the paper:
1) Who invented the RECORD model?
2) Has it been implemented in the authors' hospital(s) and/or cardiac team, how long for?
3) What are the authors' results/ experiences with it?
Specific comments:
Introduction
4) Definition: A "human factor" is a physical or cognitive property of an individual or social behavior specific to humans that may influence performance of a system, team etc. It certainly does not refer to 'a biologic predisposition for error' as is the opening statement of the introduction.

Behavioural outcomes in the operating theatre
5) Second paragraph: 'Surgical error occurs when lack of skill or ability is combined with behavioral deficiency' In my experience a surgical error does not necessarily mean that the surgeon lacks skill or is 'behaviorally deficient'. All humans commit errors and cardiac surgeons are humans.

6) The paragraph starting 'Major and minor events...' authors need to specify what they define as major and what as minor events.

7) The paragraph starting 'It has always been considered that surgical skills are innate aspects...' This statement is wrong. There is substantial evidence (EricssonKA.Deliberatepracticeandacquisitionofexpertperformance:a general overview. Acad Emerg Med 2008;15(11):988—94.) that talent is not a defining parameter in the acquisition of 'expert skills'. Authors need to revise this statement.

8) In the paragraph starting 'Surgeons with the 'right knowledge and technical expertise" get better...' authors focus on knowledge and skills as the two most important characteristics of a competent surgeon. However it is well known that Crew resource management skills (how to manage/guide the theatre team) are particularly important for cardiac surgeons. This is one of the WHO checklist emphasis points. Also needs to be referenced.

I have attached a paper of related theme that might be useful in their revision.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests