Reviewer's report

**Title:** Progressive cyanosis following Kawashima operation: slow resolution after redirection of hepatic veins

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 March 2013

**Reviewer:** S Bruce Greenberg

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The manuscript is good but minor revisions may be helpful.

1. The sentence in the background section: "However, the exact pathogenesis remains to be clarified." can be deleted since an earlier sentence described the issue as being hypothesized.

2. The word "extend" should be changed to extent.

3. The language used is the case section to list the abnormalities is confusing. The language suggests that right hepatic veins are absent when the authors meant to indicate that no right sided superior vena cava was present. I think this can be clarified by changing the sentence to: A newborn girl was diagnosed with dextrocardia, left atrial isomerism, azygous continuation to a solitary left sided superior vena cava, hepatic vein drainage to a left sided atrium, ...

4. The word directly should be deleted from the sentence: "Pulmonary arteriovenous malformations were suspected although no directly visible by angiography." An alternative statement would be: "No macroscopic arteriovenous malformations were present."

5. The hepatic veins were anastomosed to the left pulmonary artery. This seemed odd to me since it would be expected to lead to right lung arteriovenous malformation. Can you clarify why this was done and if so, why did the systemic arterial oxygenation improve since no hepatic factor would be expected to enter the right lung. I have seen cases where the hepatic veins have been anastomosed to the azygous vein.

6. In the comments section, the authors noted the large range in patients developing pulmonary arteriovenous malformation. Perhaps they would care to speculate on the wide range of 21-75%.

7. The sentence: "However, further studies are needed to clarify this." should be deleted.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I do not have any competing interests.