Reviewer’s report

Title: One Size Does Not Fit All: The Influence of Age at Surgery on Outcomes following Norwood Operation

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Reviewer: James Tweddell

Reviewer’s report:

This is a retrospective analysis of a single institution experience with the Norwood procedure with an emphasis on the age at stage 1 palliation on outcome. The majority of patients were over 7 days of age, a risk factor found by some but not all institutions to be a risk factor for mortality. We published a paper in 2000 "Patients at Risk for Low Systemic Oxygen Delivery After the Norwood Procedure." Ann Thorac Surg 2000;69:1893–9, that showed that patients less than 8 days of age were at increased risk of low SVO2 and wider AVO2 difference. Overall the paper is well done and I don't have any major criticisms. I would suggest the authors remove the quote from Kent in the introduction, I don't think it adds much and the analogy is unnecessary. I would suggest they reference our paper as it supports their findings. In the abstract the authors use "Operative mortality (# 30 days)" when I think they meant to say # 30 days.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflicts