Reviewer’s report

Title: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation successfully used in reversal of cardiorespiratory failure induced by atonic uterine bleeding: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 26 September 2013

Reviewer: Shingo Ichiba

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

Successful management aggressive mechanical support for severe cardio-respiratory failure unresponsive to the conventional management.

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors presented successful management of postpartum atonic hemorrhagic shock complicated with cardiac dysfunction, DIC and severe respiratory failure, using venoarterial ECMO, which is congratulated. Please make the discussion points clear.

What is the main reason for introducing venoarterial ECMO instead of IAPB? Especially, bleeding is the major consideration for introducing mechanical
support.

By introducing venoarterial ECMO, how the condition of the patient improved? The authors described only on fluid balance during ECMO support, which is ordinary treatment. What about inotropic and mechanical ventilatory support? If the main cause of cardiac dysfunction was due to adverse effects of catecholamines and high pressure ventilation, VA ECMO should be excellent option for improving the pathophysiology of this patient.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests