Reviewer’s report

Title: Cardioprotective Effect of Remote Ischemic Preconditioning with Postconditioning on Donor Hearts in Patients Undergoing Heart Transplantation: a single-center, double-blind, randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Demetrio Pittarello

Reviewer’s report:

The present study is the first demonstration of the effectiveness of RIPC combined with RIPostC in patients undergoing orthotopic heart transplantation. It is an original study that for the first time has been involved in heart transplants with a considerable number of patients. The results presented are in line with the data provided by the literature also of the most recent trials and therefore confirm the hypotheses up to now. The cardiac troponin I difference is in line with what has been supported so far. I think it is an important contribution for those who are interested in preconditioning also because it highlights the possible mechanism of preconditioning linked to the presence of humoral factors responsible for the mechanism. Moreover the analysis of secondary outcomes seems to me very accurate.

As regards table 1, I consider it useful to insert the value of statistical significativity (p value).

Finally I think it is necessary to update the bibliography with more recent articles about preconditioning.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
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Acceptable

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