Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictive risk factors for postoperative pneumonia after heart transplantation

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Reviewer: Achim Koch

Reviewer's report:

In their retrospective analysis, the authors analysed data of 175 heart transplant recipients. They had a high number of ECMO patients and recipients on pretransplantation mechanical ventilation in their cohort. From their results, they conclude that mechanical ventilation as well as postoperative blood transfusions were the main factors responsible for postoperative pneumonia. The risk for pneumonia was not influenced by plasma exchange and plasmapheresis.

Furthermore there was a very high rate of posttransplant va ECMO for primary graft dysfunction. This is in my view the main limitation of the study. A va ECMO rate of 66% is probably responsible for prolonged mechanical ventilation and the amount of postoperative blood transfusions. The issue of recipient selection for transplantation should be emphasized more in the discussion section.

The topic is interesting, the study is performed properly, the results are presented adequately. However, some explanations about recipient selected are mandatory.

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

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review? If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

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Quality of written English
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