Reviewer’s report

Title: Liver transplantation in Jehovah’s witnesses: 13 consecutive cases at a single Institution

Version: 3 Date: 28 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Shweta A Singh

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I think this is a good paper highlighting the practices which can enable successful conduct of transfusion free transplant.

1. (Page 8, Line 4)- Were erythropoiesis stimulating agents used intraoperatively as mentioned in the text? If they were used preoperatively then it needs to be mentioned earlier in the chronology of events, not in the intraoperative management.

2. (Page 9, Line 55)-
   a. Other factors identified to be associated with increased intraoperative bleeding are "previous abdomen surgery", "previous evidence of SBP" "Post TIPSS. Were these also considered when selecting cases.
   b. Collaterals on CT, evidence of DIC preoperatively are some predictors of bleeding. Single value of INR>2.5 alone may not be a reason enough to require blood products in our experience.
   c. Since this is a retrospective review many considerations may not have been clearly stated in the documents which were accessed to write up the paper. Would the authors like to add such parameters, perhaps these were considered by the team managing these patients.
   d. Were certain aetiologies also excluded as they can be associated with increasing intraoperatively bleeding like alcohol induced CLD.
   e. Patients on inotropes preoperatively are more likely to required volume and product transfusion. Were sick patients on multiple inotropes excluded

3. (Page 9, Line 20)- Authors could consider adding data on intraoperative use of vasoactive agents. This would give more credibility and a better understanding to those wanting to learn from the article.
   There is mention of 2 patients who needed inotropes at reperfusion and there is mention of 1 patient who required inotropes post operatively.
   The conduct of LT without transfusion is indeed commendable. With some more detail it will be more helpful for others to learn how they can do the same

4. (Page 18) Mentions that total duration of study was about 400 minutes.
   Would the authors like to mention in the text the importance of focussed and expert surgical involvement towards conducting a blood less surgery.
   Was there any difference in the surgical involvement and conduct in Jehovah's witnesses vs other transplants

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

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

Unable to assess

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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