Author’s response to reviews

Title: Heart rate variability after radiofrequency ablation of epicardial ganglionated plexuses on the ovine left atrium

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Hello, we tried to fulfill all the requirements listed.

Added clarification for authors contributions: VK wrote the draft manuscript, made a literature review; was involved in RFA procedure, Holter monitoring and data analysis; AP, VZ, RZ, RV, ED and TK were involved in critical revision of the manuscript and RFA procedures; RV and ED were responsible for perioperative care, general anaesthesia and thoracotomy; ED also attended study animals with any necessary veterinary support during the follow-up. VS, AS and RU were involved in perioperative care and Holter monitoring through the whole year period, performed Holter data analysis and manual corrections of raw data and participated in acquiring study animal hearts and preparing histological samples; RU also performed statistical analysis; KR, NP, DHP participated in the design of the study and critical revision of the manuscript, they also performed histological evaluation of ablation sites. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
Revised the order in ‘Declarations’ section as required.

Added clarification about the source of study animals: ‘The present study was conducted under the permission (No.: 33ĮV-62) issued by the National Food and Veterinary Department and complying to DIRECTIVE 2010/63/EU. Fifteen mature (6-8 months old) Romanov sheep of either gender were acquired in a local farm. There they spent most of the study period in the maternal herd, under the supervision of original owner and veterinary doctor, except during the perioperative period when they were tended in veterinary clinics.’

We acquired study animals from a local farmer - Mr. Vaclovas Eidukevicius. We received no external funding and covered all the expenses ourselves (including the purchase of the animals). Thus we wrote ‘funding not applicable’ under the relevant section.

No consent of sheep owner was required according to national Food and Veterinary department and Mr. Vaclovas was well aware of all ongoing processes as he participated in most of them as well as tended for the animals during all the study period. For this reason we did not consider consent being necessary. We did not acquire any. We expressed our gratitude under the acknowledgements section - ‘the authors are grateful to Mr. Vaclovas Eidukevicius for the supply of experimental animals and outstanding care for them through the study period’.

Added city and country to affiliation – ‘Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania. All the authors are from the same university.

Added a section ‘Figure legends’ before the figure legends; removed the abbreviations from figure legends, they are all now under the ‘abbreviations’ section. Removed all the tracking, highlighting and comments.

Hope it is good.