Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 20 May 2017

Reviewer: Lianjun Gao

Reviewer's report:

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In this manuscript, the authors described the change of HRV after epicardial radiofrequency ablation (RFA) of ganglionated plexuses (GP) on the ovine left atrium. They showed that after the epicardial RFA of GP on the ovine LA lasting effect existed on the main HRV parameters (SDNN, HF power and LF power) and normalization of RMSSD, HRV TI and LF/HF occurred over time.

There are several weaknesses of the manuscript:

1) RFA of GA was performed in one group, the results showed some parameters were back to before over time. But how to confirm the complete elimination of GA by RFA? Maybe surgical dissection of the tissue (for example, the fat pad) on LA epicardium. With the verification complete elimination of GP, the results could be more convincing.

2) Control groups might be not comprehensive. I think that a group of sheep just experienced pericardial space opened and dorsal LA area revealed is necessary.

3) Pulmonary vein isolation also affects the GP densely situated around PV roots, in other words, endocardial ablation could injure the GP outside to some extent. If possible, the endocardial ablation should be performed in one added group.

4) The authors described the change of HRV after epicardial RFA, the clinical significance needs to be discussed more.
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Acceptable

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