Reviewer’s report

Title: Left atrial enlargement and clinical considerations in patients with or without a residual interatrial shunt after closure of the left atrial appendage with the WATCHMANTM-Device

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Mila Menozzi

Reviewer's report:

Authors submit for publication data from consecutive patients treated with LAA closure with the WATCHMANTM Device. They evaluated changes in LA volumes and their clinical significance using serial 3-dimensional transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography (3D TTE and TEE). They elegantly demonstrated that the increase in LAVmax after six weeks and six months was significantly higher in patients without a left-to-right interatrial shunt, as compared to those with a residual one.

The principal limitation of the study is the limited number of patients, because of this we don't observe differences in clinical outcomes, as expected, and LA enlargement does not correlate with clinical progression of heart failure.

I encourage authors to continue enrolling patients and resubmit the manuscript with larger number of them.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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