Reviewer’s report


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Reviewer: Robert M R Tulloh

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Review

Yang et al. Outcomes from Tetralogy of Fallot repair

Summary. The authors have analysed the NIS database and determined the evidence of risk of complications for Fallot repair at different ages. They conclude that the risk of repair at <30 is higher than at other ages

Comments.

1. This is an interesting paper analysing the NIS database. As with all retrospective studies, it suffers from the problems of incomplete information about the patients concerned. Permission has to be granted to study this database and this permission needs to be identified in the manuscript.

2. Abstract. The data suggests that the risk of complications in <30 day infants undergoing repair of Fallot is greater than for children who are older. This information is not new, as the authors themselves confirm in the discussion. Can they reassure us, that it is not just the more severe cases that are operated earlier?

3. There is no information on the type of operation that these children have had. "Repair' might mean different things to different people, for example transanular patch without VSD closure, might be listed as repair. Can the authors be sure what operation these children have had?

4. Results. The length of stay might be for non-cardiac reasons, for example establishing feeding, especially in those with 22q11.2 deletion or cleft palate. Can the authors let us know what it was that kept them in hospital?

5. If the repair was completed at an earlier age, is it possible that they avoided having BT shunt insertion or RVOT stent? Has this been factored into the outcome for these patients?
6. The funding needs to be described for this study. Unless the authors undertook this in all their own time, someone was paying their salaries and support costs.

**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.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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