Reviewer’s report

Title: Interatrial block in prediction of all-cause mortality after first-ever ischemic stroke

Version: 0 Date: 12 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Erik Biros

Reviewer's report:

The authors "aimed to assess the association of IAB with all-cause mortality in first-ever ischemic stroke survivors during 10 years after stroke". The authors found that hazard ratio of death for whatever reason within 10 years after stroke is 4.99 (p=0.008). However, to achieve this, the patients have to be completely healthy except having the history of IAB and stroke. The IAB patients with stroke and comorbidities have hazard ratio of dying for whatever reason within 10 years after stroke approximately 1.0 (p=0.966). The findings of this study mirrors its hypothesis that appears ridiculous in its attempt to predict all-cause mortality, again all-cause mortality from a specific cardiovascular condition. Anything that causes death is considered a cause of death. In this context, since advanced IAB could be a risk for embolic stroke, a potentially deadly cardiovascular event, the assessment of a cause specific mortality in IAB patients would be of higher information value for statistics in Sweden.

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

No

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?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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