Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Long-term survival and quality of life in Jehovah's Witnesses after cardiac surgery: a case control study.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 Dec 2018

**Reviewer:** Mohamed Mohamed Rahouma Ahmed

**Reviewer's report:**

I would like to thank the editor for this privilege to review such interesting paper.

I have the following minor points:

Language revision is essential e.g.
- ★ in abstract method section: undergoing should be underwent
- ★ Line 21: in abstract conclusion; please change "observes" to "follows".
- ★ Page 6 Line 34: inappropriate use of colon (:) was frequent. Please fix this.
- ★ Page 7 Line 44: please fix it to be "the obtained prediction curve".
- ★ Page 8 line 31: it should be "informed consent. Line 34: it should be : with an informed ",etc
- ★ Page 13 : it should be Kaplan Meier curves (not Meyer) and also edit other legend accordingly.

I wonder how this study has trial registration No. although it is not randomized controlled trial.

Line 29: please do not put any reference in the abstract.
Line 45: please be consistent in writing your abbreviation (JHW vs JhW)
Line 49: In introduction section, more details and references needed to be added. Don't comment on your prior work only.

Page 4, Line 52: please add proper reference to MacNew questionnaire and try to add a copy of the used question to the supplements.
Page 5 line 1: Selection of HRQoL over 2 weeks prior to questionnaire administration is a weird timeframe as those who underwent surgery 1 years ago will not be similar to those who had surgery 1 month ago. Please add explanation to that. Possible suggestion is to mention the minimum time from operation till questionnaire administration among your groups.
Page 5 Line 18: continuous variables should be assessed for normality then you can use t-test (mean and SD) if normally distributed or Mann Whitney test (median and interquartile range) if not. Please state that you tested for normality and edit as appropriate.
Page 5, Line 31: please add proper reference to spss program.
Page 5, Line 41: Please change programmed to elective.
Page 5, Line 47: please avoid putting any reference in the result section.
Page 5, Line 57: please add the method of calculation of median follow up to the method section and
add proper reference. There are many method to get it with reversed Kaplan Meier method being reported as the most robust. In which you can put alive patients as "events" . For more details, you can read this https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/health-sciences/research/biostats/youngsurv/pdf/MShanyinde.pdf
Page 5 Line 60: please put respectively after groups.
Page 6 Line 6: please report how you got p value.
Page 6 Line 16: This is the main limitation of this study ( 14 vs 18 patients had HRQoL assessment ) and this should be clearly stated at the end of discussion section under a title limitation of our study. In addition you can state that future multi-institutional series will be highly recommended.
Page 7 Line 5: Please rephrase this sentence.
Page 7 Line 16: Please mention number of patients assessed in reference 10.
Page 7 Line 39-44: Sorry, I didn't understand this sentence and its appropriateness as the usual Kaplan Meier curves will be the usual sufficient method. Please explain or delete it.

Table 1 and figure 1: please add patients at risk to Kaplan Meier curves plot.
Table 2: it is strongly advised to use boxplots to show this data even as supplement.

**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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

NA

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal