Reviewer's report

Title: Hemodynamic monitoring using a single-use indwelling transesophageal echocardiography probe in unstable patients after open-heart surgery

Version: 1 Date: 21 March 2015

Reviewer: Susan Wiegers

Reviewer's report:

The authors report the use of a commercially available disposable TEE probe which can be left in place for 72 hours and is useful for hemodynamic monitoring. In this unfortunate case of a patient who died after a routine CAGB, the monitoring probe was used to diagnose a PFO contributing to hypoxia and left atrial tamponade. The tamponade was confirmed by standard TEE prior to return to the OR. The images are interesting and demonstrate that adequate information is available from the probe. The case does not illustrate the author's conclusions that "The TEE monoplane probe promises to facilitate early identification of life-threatening postoperative complications in patients with cardiopulmonary compromise after open-heart surgery."

Major revisions:
1. The final statement should be revised to be less positive particularly as standard echo could easily have documented both complications (and was required in the second instance) and the outcome was not positive.
2. A discussion of potential hazards of long term esophageal intubation or the possibility should at least be mentioned.

Minor Essential Revision:
1. It is not clear, in this patient who lived for at least 7 days after CABG, when the probe was actually inserted. This should be clarified.
2. The name of the manufacturer is illustrated in Figure 1 and could reasonably be removed.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests