Reviewer's report

Title: Effects and outcomes of septostomy in twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome after fetoscopic laser therapy

Version: 0 Date: 08 Sep 2019

Reviewer: David Ellwood

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for allowing me to review your interesting manuscript. Your data are clearly presented and the conclusions are very well stated. I agree that you have demonstrated that cases in which laser ablation has resulted in septostomy appear to have worse outcomes than those which dont and I also agree with your conclusions arguing against septostomy as a form of treatment.

My main question for you is whether or not the data you have presented have caused your team to change its practice in relation to methods, or if you have any recommendations for the readers about any form of management post-laser which might reduce the risk of an adverse outcome in such cases? Cord entanglement will always be a challenge but a number of the cases also resulted in extremely preterm birth and I am curious as to any suggestions you might have about prevention?

Could you also give some more information about the way in which treatment for TTTS is organised in Taiwan? Is there a single centre that manages all cases for a region or are there multiple operators working from many different sites? This kind of information would also be useful to understand the context in which this case series has arisen. For example, what proportion of the total TTS cases from Taiwan does this number represent?

Finally, are you able to comment on any factors that seem to be associated with septostomy on this series? Was there any clear connection with more complicated procedures, in terms of time (duration) of the procedure, access to the placenta, maternal BMI etc.? Given that this is a series from one operator has there been evidence of a 'learning curve'? Are cases of septostomy seen less commonly in the later years of the series?

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:

Acceptable

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