Reviewer's report

Title: Survival of outborns with congenital diaphragmatic hernia: the role of protective ventilation, early presentation and transport distance: a retrospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Mir Basir

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript the authors present a retrospective cohort single institution study with the aim to assess whether survival of neonates with CDH improved with introduction of protective ventilator strategy in a tertiary center in Croatia.

The paper is well written and the analysis seems sound. However, I have doubts whether the results are actually an advance above earlier published results. Factors unique to this manuscript is lack of air transport for transporting sick neonates from distances upto 280 kilometers and lack of ECMO rescue in the tertiary center.

Major compulsory revisions: none

Minor essential revisions: Figure 2 not clear. Is the Y axis "actual survival" of patients who fell into POS high, moderate and low in the two epochs.

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 that I have no competing interests