Reviewer’s report

Title: First clinical experience with the Kora pacemaker system in congenital complete heart block in newborn infants

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Reviewer: Georg Hansmann

Reviewer's report:

This interesting case series reviews the first clinical experience of the Kora pacing system in newborn patients. The 3 neonatal patients presented have a reasonable follow up of ~3 years, as well as follow up echocardiographic data to assess the hemodynamics in these patients. To my knowledge, the Kora pacing system is a MRI-conditional pacing system that has been successfully used in adults. The device is small, 8cc, and currently the smallest MRI-conditional device on the market.

Overall, this case series is the first to describe this device use in neonatal patients. The market for pacing devices in children, especially in neonates, is small and for companies it seems not profitable to focus on this patient group. This outlines the importance of reports like the present case series. However, there are several points that need to be addressed by the authors:

1) General. The manuscript should be checked for typing and grammar errors.

2) Complications. One of the patients required a pocket revision due to "skin traction and suture dehiscence," resulting in 33% complication rate. This is important to note and should be addressed in the discussion section.

3) Development. The authors mention that Denver Developmental Screening Test was used and showed appropriate results. It might be interesting to provide these test sheets to the audience of Clinical Cardiology, i.e. as supplemental figures.

4) Also, given that the authors praise the minute ventilation sensor, providing the patient histograms would be helpful.

5) Patient growth curves. Patients were stated to have appropriate growth, this would be interesting to see as a supplemental table.
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.

Unable to assess

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?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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