Reviewer's report

Title: Lessons learned from the use of 1,977 in-situ bilateral internal mammary arteries: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: Rony Atoui

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and important study looking at the early and long-term results of BIMA grafting in patients undergoing CaBG.

It is a retrospective analysis from a single center in North America. The limitations are related to the retrospective nature of the study, and this is mentioned in the manuscript. I just have few minor comments.

One interesting finding is the effect of insulin itself rather than the comorbidity of diabetes as a whole. It would be interesting to offer some explanation as to why this was observed in this study and not in other previous studies. Is this related to insulin itself or to the poor glucose control intra or postoperatively?

Another comment relates to table 6 and to the age cutoff seen with the Blma use. The age of 65 is highlighted. It would be also interesting if the authors provide some explanation as to why this finding was identified, as opposed to other multiple studies showing the beneficial effect of the use of arterial conduits, including Blma, in the elderly population. Furthermore, do they think that their finding could be affected by the relatively low number of patients in this age category?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflicts