Author's response to reviews

Title: Case Report: Paravalvular Leak as a Complication of Percutaneous Catheter Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation

Authors:

Orcun Gurbuz (gurbuzorcun@gmail.com)
Abdulkadir Ercan (kadirercan@yahoo.com)
Hakan Ozkan (doctorhakan@hotmail.com)
Gencehan Kumtepe (kumtepe.gencehan@gmail.com)
Ilker H Karal (ilkerkaral@netscape.net)
Serdar Ener (serdarener@gmail.com)

Version: 4 Date: 13 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. There are many different ablation sets performed for AF especially those with persistent AF. The authors need to describe what type of AF ablation was performed in this patient, in other words, was pulmonary vein isolation (PVI) alone performed or PVI + LA roof line, +/- mitral isthmus line, +/- ablation of continuous fractionated atrial electrograms. Also we need to know what type of ablation catheter was used and what kinds of energy (how many watts, target ablation temperatures, etc) were applied in the LA.

Response: Moreover, 1 years ago, she had undergone a pulmonary vein isolation (PVI), left atrium and mitral isthmus roof lines ablations for symptomatic persistent AF in another hospital, using CARTO mapping system (Biosense, Diamond Bar, CA, USA) and an irrigation ablation catheter (Biosense, ThermoCool® SF Catheter, USA). Furthermore, RFA was delivered at pulmonary veins for up to 30 W and at both lines up to 35 W with a temperature limitation of 50ºC.

2. Also, how certain are the authors that the paravalvular leak occurred following AF ablation. The patient has undergone 2 mitral valve surgeries prior to AF ablation. Could she not have developed the PVL unrelated to the ablation?

Response: This patient was under echocardiography follow-up every three months, which were not revealed any PVL or pulmonary hypertension before the procedure, but three months after the RFA.

3. There are major grammatical errors in the case write up. It first starts off in the past tense, switches to the present tense and back again. Please correct this.
Response: All grammatical errors were corrected.