Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Full-root aortic valve replacement with stentless xenograft achieves superior regression of left ventricular hypertrophy compared to pericardial stented aortic valves

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**Version:** 4  **Date:** 16 December 2014

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Answers to reviewers

I thank again all the reviewers for their helpful comments. The new modifications are integrated into the text, tables’ titles and legends for figures as appropriate, in red characters to ease the re-re-review.

Reviewer’s report 1

**Title:** Full-root aortic valve replacement with stentless xenograft achieves superior regression of left ventricular hypertrophy compared to pericardial stented aortic valves

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 13 December 2014

**Reviewer:** Francisco A Costa

**Reviewer's report:**
the authors have made the necessary changes and the article can now be published

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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
Reviewer's report

Title: Full-root aortic valve replacement with stentless xenograft achieves superior regression of left ventricular hypertrophy compared to pericardial stented aortic valves

Version: 3 Date: 9 December 2014

Reviewer: Henrique Murad

Reviewer's report: There is no need of further revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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
Reviewer's report 3

**Title:** Full-root aortic valve replacement with stentless xenograft achieves superior regression of left ventricular hypertrophy compared to pericardial stented aortic valves

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 12 December 2014

**Reviewer:** Vinicius Nina

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

Follow-up is still not clear for 2 reasons: 1) In both groups the authors state that the follow-up was 100% complete; however, 68 (90.6%) out of 75 in the stentless group were studied by echo at 1 year. On the other hand, in the stented group 45(70.3%) out of 64 had an echo done at 1 year. Therefore, there was loss of follow-up in both groups (10% and 30% for stentless and stented, respectively) - Table 4/Figure 4.

Echocardiographic data collection was closed in December 2013. Therefore, echocardiographic data of the patients operated in 2013 were not included in the one-year comparison. Consequently, in the stentless group 68 (of 75 patients with aortic stenosis) were operated before January 2013 and could be studied by echocardiography at one year. In the stented group 46 (of 64 patients with aortic stenosis) were operated before January 2013 and could have been available for echocardiography at one year. This has been added to the text.

2) Considering that the sample included patients operated on until Dec’13, consequently they are completing their follow-up by now (Dec’14). Were they included?

Table 1 depicts the pre-operative characteristics of the whole population. Tables 2 to 4 and figures 2 to 4 focus on patients with aortic stenosis and include the patients operated before January 2013. This has been added to the tables’ titles and legends for figures.

**Minor Essential Revisions:** NA

**Discretionary Revisions:** NA

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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