Reviewer's report

Title: Automated fastener versus manually tied knots in minimally invasive mitral valve repair: impact on operation time and short-term results

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Reviewer: Leonid Sternik

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading this article. I find it well-written and clear.
I have several major comments.
1. Authors should report not only BMI but the height and weight of these patients, because the patients' body size is very important for mitral access and operation time, especially in minimally invasive surgery
2. If manual knots and automated fastener were used equally by each surgeon, so if authors eliminated surgeons' influence on operating time?

My minor comment is: what kind of aortic clamping was used?

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests