Reviewer’s report

Title: Early and Midterm Outcomes of the VSSR procedure with De Paulis valsalva graft: A Chinese single-Center Experience in 38 patients

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Reviewer: Ruggero De Paulis

Reviewer’s report:

The authors report their initial experience of valve sparing procedure and evaluate their results. The question is not new but is well defined. In particular although the number of patients is not big enough, as compared to similar reports in the literature, is peculiar because almost half of the patients were acute dissection.

The methods are appropriate and well described. Considering the initial learning curve and the number of emergency cases, the results are quite satisfactory and appear to be well controlled.

There is some discrepancy between the completeness of follow-up as reported in the abstract and as reported in the methods. Furthermore, it is stated that one patient was reoperated for bleeding but in the discussion is said differently.

The results as reported in the figures are misleading because the curves, both survival and residual AR go down to 0%. Similarly, in the results section is not clear if freedom from reoperation and freedom from valve replacement are just the same. This aspect should be clarified.

The discussion is brief and concise. There is no comparison with various follow-up of VSSR present in the literature. It is erroneously said that the graft sinuses can not be adjusted. This is not true given the possibility of trimming the Dacron to adapt to the various anatomy of the patient.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

As the inventor of the graft used in this report, I receives royalties from the company