Reviewer’s report

Title: Cardiac arrest without physical cardiac injury during Nuss repair of pectus excavatum

Version: 0 Date: 14 Jan 2017

Reviewer: RE Kelly

Reviewer's report:

Could the authors comment on the evaluation of the coronary artery to pulmonary artery shunt in more detail? Their recommendation to evaluate any such shunt seen on echocardiography with further imaging, such as angiography, seems very wise. I would favor making it a forceful recommendation of your report.

Do the authors feel that compression of the coronary arteries by the inverted pectus bar might have increased the shunting of blood from the aorta/proximal coronary artery to the pulmonary artery, thereby producing myocardial ischemia and cardiac arrest?

Could the authors comment on the position of the defibrillation paddles during the ineffective defibrillation efforts on the second attempt? Placing the paddles in the usual positions will allow flow of electrons from one paddle to the other via the bar without passing through the myocardium. The paddles should be placed one anterior, one on the back of the patient to force the current through the heart.

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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I am a consultant to Zimmer Biomet, manufacturers of the bar used for the Nuss procedure in the United States and some other countries.

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