Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical Outcomes of a Combined Transcatheter and Minimally Invasive Atrial Septal Defect Repair Program using a 'Heart Team' Approach

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Reviewer: Jacob Bergsland

Reviewer's report:

The article is interesting and represents a heart team approach to the treatment of ASDs. The introduction of heart teams is important and well suited for the purpose of utilizing various methods for ASD repairs. This has resulted in very good results in the experience of the authors.

The paper is well written, the main concern is as the authors point out, the low number of patients included. I do think, however, that it is necessary to make a stronger statement in this regard. If we look at the incidence of residual shunt for example, where there is a much higher incidence in the transcatheter group, it certainly could be a good chance of a type 2 error or false negative if a larger number of patients were included. The same applies for several other factors when the study has so low power.

Questions to the authors

The inclusion of patients in the surgical group who had additional procedures, skews parameters such as bypass and crossclamp times. Did you do a comparison between the "straightforward" cases ie cases that had only ASD repair. Although the number of patients would be even lower, the additional patients included may make the comparison between groups less valid.

Did you look at predictors for residual leaks? Could there be other selection criterias developed from this study to prevent residual leaks?
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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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