Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use veno-venous extra corporeal membrane oxygenation in elderly patients with post-cardiotomy hypoxia: the changing paradigm of respiratory support in adult respiratory distress syndrome

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In response to the second reviewer, we believe that although mortality is higher in the elderly, for carefully selected postcardiotomy patients ECMO support can be valuable and lead to excellent recovery.

Moreover, patients treated with VV-ECMO after cardiac surgery differ from veno-venous ECMO for respiratory failure due to other causes in few ways: 1. the cause of respiratory failure is known (aspiration pneumonia in our case); 2. the patients are already in a centre for advanced respiratory failure management, and institution of ECMO can be done early; 3. the cardiac function is normal (unlike elderly patients from the community who may have cardiac disease); 4. co-morbidities like malignancy have already been ruled out.

We amended the discussion with what mentioned above and we still consider our case report makes contribution to medical knowledge and has an educational value.

We would really appreciate if the reviewer could consider our manuscript again for publication in view of those new amendments.

Many thanks again.

Regars,

Dr Sara Volpi