Reviewer’s report

Title: Right Ventricular Failure Following Left Ventricular Assist Device Implantation is Associated with a Preoperative Pro-Inflammatory Response

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Reviewer: Hiroyuki Kamiya

Reviewer’s report:

Tang et al investigated relationship between preoperative WBC and postoperative right ventricular failure. Although there has been at least one similar previous study (Neurohumoral and inflammatory markers for prediction of right ventricular failure after implantation of a left ventricular assist device. Hennig F, Stepanenko AV, Lehmkuhl HB, Kukucka M, Dandel M, Krabatsch T, Hetzer R, Potapov EV. Gen Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2011 Jan;59(1):19-24), I think this theme is interesting and there may be potential for publication. However, this paper has some problems with statistics in my opinion.

1) The authors should explain why the cut-off value of WBC was 10500 in this study. I guess that ROC analysis may be better for setting a cut-off value.

2) In this study, a multivariate analysis was performed to find an independent factor for increased WBC. However, multivariate analysis should be performed to clarify whether increased WBC is an independent factor for postoperative right ventricular failure.

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Acceptable

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