Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in the levels of inflammatory markers after transthoracic device closure of ventricular septal defects in pediatric patients

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Reviewer: Nazmul Hosain

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks for the article, but I have a few queries and suggestions:

1. Pg 5 line 11-12 >>> The exclusion criteria were: age below 9 months >> why 9 months? Plz explain.

2. Pg 7 line 3 >>> 'septal defect was repaired with a patch through the tricuspid valve'. >>> Wasn't there any direct closure of VSD with out patch?

3. Pg 8 ‘Our surgical teams demonstrated that there were no statistically significant differences in the time of CPB, aortic clamping, operative time or prognoses between the two groups with the median incision and the infra-axillary incision.' >>> Why the comparison between 2 different incisions of VSD closure under CPB is mentioned here? This issue seems irrelevant here.

4. Pg 9 line 3-8>>> Why do you mention SIRS here? Cardiac surgery under CPB gives rise to a generalized systemic inflammatory response, but that is not SIRS. SIRS is a different entity.

5. Pg 11 line 20-21>> '... there were no statistically significant differences between the levels of inflammatory factors in these two groups at any period after treatment'. >>> Table 3 & 4 show the levels of inflammatory factors, but there has been no mention of their comparison.

6. Were all different types of VSDs closed in the same manner?

7. Just curious, this is a retrospective study. Why measurements of PCT, CRP, IL-6 were made in all cases on day 1,2,3,5 & 7? Is it routine in your center.

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