Reviewer’s report

Title: A Case Report: Veno-Venous Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for Severe Blunt Thoracic Trauma

Version: 0 Date: 05 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Andrea Montisci

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting case report.

The authors reported a case report on the application of v-v ECMO on a patient suffering from bilateral blunt chest trauma.

They addressed an important issue in this category of patients, facing the clinical dilemma of the risk of life-threatening hemorrhage due to extensive trauma and the need to administrate anticoagulant drugs to avoid ECMO thrombosis.

I believe that some aspects should be improved.

Major revision:

- In the discussion (from line 47 of the second page of discussion to line 7 of the third page), there is a series of concepts that seem to be completely isolated from the previous part and redundant. I suggest eliminating this part and reformulating the discussion as needed by this variation. It could be useful to cite Carretta et al. Veno-venous ECMO in the surgical management of post-traumatic intrathoracic trachea transection, JTD 2018 to mention a further indication of v-v ECMO in trauma patients, i.e. tracheal lesions making impossible an effective mechanical ventilation.

Minor revisions:

- Ref. 11 is not appropriate in discussing the survival of a general respiratory ECMO population;

- Introduction, line 35: functional collapse is an obscure expression;

- Case, line 47-48: blood transmission and blood removal are unusual expression; please replace with outflow cannula/inflow cannula or inlet/outlet;

- English language editing is needed: haemorrhaging, free-heparin etc.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal