Reviewer's report

Title: Heart valve operations associated with reduced risk of death from mitral valve disease but other operations associated with increased risk of death: A national population-based case control study

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Reviewer: Fumiaki Shikata

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigated the risk of death associated with mitral valve operations and the multiple mitral operations after non-cardiac operations from the national database. I congratulate the authors' brilliant study with large population of the database.

The results of this study are fair and reasonable however, I could not find new insights from this article. It is well known that the patients who had undergone non-cardiac operations have higher risk of mitral valve surgery and heart valve operations can lower the risk of death from valve disease. No surgeons would not deny the authors' findings as they should already know these things.

Please add any other new findings which are different from previous articles in the field of mitral valve operations.

At page 12, I could not understand this sentence like "conversely, more total operations could increase the mortality rate of patients with MVD."

Minor notes:

The column in the Figure 2 needs to be changed from "heart value" to "heart valve".

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:

Acceptable
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