Reviewer's report

Title: Three-year Experience with Immediate Extubation in Pediatric Patients after Congenital Cardiac Surgery

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Reviewer: Bahaaldin Alsoufi

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for providing me with the manuscript to review. The authors from Miami review their experience over 3 years and compare some characteristics and recovery findings among patients who had immediate, early or delayed extubation following cardiac surgery at their institution. They found that the characteristics between those who had delayed extubation and others were very different and that delayed extubation was associated with longer recovery.

This is an interesting topic and there have been quite a few publications related to early extubation. The issue with this contribution from Miami is that their data analysis is very descriptive and there is very little to learn from their experience. I think however that the authors can improve on that to make it more useful to the readers.

1- They need to expand on their protocols in anesthesia, and early critical care management and how they make early extubation happen.

2- They need to each us about case mix and the type of cases that the are extubating early. The characteristics between the groups are very different and there are groups that have published about early extubation in patients who have undergone the Norwood operation or other complex neonatal surgeries and that is likely not the case at the authors' institution. I find it very hard to relate to their submission without understanding the population they are describing. The effect of early extubation on recovery and resource utilization is irrelevant unless we know the studied population

3- The tables are very complex and largely not helpful. They need to make it more reader-friendly.

In summary, interesting topic but the paper as it is is purely descriptive with no useful analysis or description of anesthesia, surgical and ICU protocols that allow successful extubation. The population needs to be better defined as well. At the current states, there is very little to learn from the experience in Miami.

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