Reviewer’s report

Title: Bleeding complications after cardiac surgery, before anticoagulation start and then with argatroban or heparin in the early postoperative setting

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Reviewer: Rami Akhrass

Reviewer's report:

Major issue with the study design, their definition of bleeding and inclusion criteria of patients.

1- The study only included patients who stayed in ICU > 48 hours. Where there any patients who bled (even returned to OR ) and stayed less than 48 hours? why were these patients excluded?

2- What was the chest tube output that met the definition of bleeding? and over what period of time?

3- A drop in hemoglobin level of 2 is very common after cardiac surgery and is typically not used as a definition or marker for postop bleeding!

4- A mere drop of hemoglobin below 10 is not a justification for blood transfusion!

5- Why was mortality 4 times greater than STS benchmark especially that emergent cases were excluded?

6- what were the indications to start Argatroban? typically it is used in pts with documented or high likelihood of HIT not just for prophylaxis!

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