Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 26 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Marc Albert

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript describes a retrospective study of 215 patients receiving iv anticoagulation in the postoperative course. The aim of the study was to evaluate the bleeding risk between patients receiving heparin, argatroban, and patients, who have been switched between those two drugs.

Usually, physicians are afraid of using argatroban in the post-operative course because of the suspected higher risk of bleeding complications. This study could possibly decrease the fear and suggest more liberal use of argatroban.

The manuscript is well written, the authors evidently put in some effort writing it. Nevertheless, some minor issues should be addressed:

1. Abstract, lines 10 - 11: The sentence is confusing. I guess, that the figures refer to the total number of patients receiving anticoagulants, the sentence before you write about the bleeding incidence. Please correct.

2. Line 33: German guidelines: Please give the reference

3. Lines 54 - 55: was the prospective study you mentioned about the bleeding incidence? If not, what was the purpose? Could it affect the outcome of this retrospective study? Please explain!

4. Line 98: so, there have been some patients receiving argatroban from the very beginning? Why? Just the preference of the physician? Or have those been a very early conversion?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

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