Reviewer’s report

Title: QUALITY of life, satisfaction and outcomes after ministernotomy versus full sternotomy isolated Aortic Valve Replacement (QUALITY-AVR): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

Version: 3 Date: 29 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Ahmed Abouarab

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for making the changes and providing SPIRIT checklist and Figure.

Regarding blinding of patients:

"Blinding (masking)

17a Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how _____6_____

17b If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial _____N/A_____

Per SPIRIT checklist and guidelines;

Point 17a: In page "6": details regarding how patients are going to be blinded are not provided. For e.g. Will wounds be covered until discharge?

Such details are essential to provide for presentation of the trial methodology and reproduction of similar methodology in future trials.

Regarding the rationale for using AKIN criteria. Please provide this statement in the manuscript

" AKIN was used in VARC 2 criteria according to ESC/EACTS societies, and it is the only way to compare our results with previous reports/trials of TAVI"

Otherwise, I find the manuscript acceptable.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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