Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epicardial delivery of autologous atrial appendage micrografts during coronary artery bypass surgery - safety and feasibility study

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2. Revision comments
Reviewer reports:

Thank you for your revisions to the manuscript. There are just a few minor additional changes that are required before the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

Author reply: We thank the reviewer for the constructive comments on the revised version of our manuscript. We have now completed the revision, please find the detailed comments to the points raised below:

p10 Add "The" before "first" (new text)

p11 Replace "following" with "next" (new text)

p15 Replace "purpose for this study" with "purpose of this study" (new text)

p15 Change "We determine the success of this trial based on the primary outcome measures." to "We will determine the success of this trial based on the primary outcome measures."

p15 Change "If the therapy will be proved safe without any disturbances in patients’ cardiac rhythm..." to "If the therapy is proved to be safe without any disturbances in patients’ cardiac rhythm..."

Author reply: We have now made all the suggested textual corrections to the revised manuscript text.

SPIRIT checklist: Would it be possible to include (and reference) text in the protocol relating to each of the items which you have currently annotated with "As evaluated by the ethics committee"?

Author reply: We have now added the asterisk “*” with the notion “As evaluated by the ethics committee” and added the footnote to the SPIRIT form as follows “*The operative ethics committee for the Hospital District for Helsinki and Uusimaa has evaluated the study plan and has given approval for the study. Several appendices such as the patient informed consent form are only in the official languages (Finnish and Swedish). Translated documents are available from the authors per request, please contact the corresponding author. The ethics committee has not yet adopted the SPIRIT form in its evaluation. If needed for additional evaluation, the SPIRIT guidelines that are marked “As evaluated by the ethics committee” have either been mandatory by the ethics committee for approval and have been evaluated in the forms submitted in the official languages (Finnish or Swedish) as supplements to the application.”

We have also updated those points (marked as red text to the updated SPIRIT form) in the SPIRIT form that actually are not applicable or were found in the manuscript.