Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cerebral blood flow during cardiopulmonary bypass in pediatric cardiac surgery: the role of transcranial doppler. A systematic review of the literature

Authors:

Angelo Polito (angpolito@hotmail.com)
Zaccaria Ricci (zaccaria.ricci@fastwebnet.it)
Luca Di Chiara (diachiaraluca@libero.it)
Chiara Giorni (c_giorni@yahoo.it)
Claudia Iacoella (iacoella@libero.it)
Stephen P Sanders (spsanders_in_rome@hotmail.com)
Sergio Picardo (picardo@opbg.net)

Version: 2 Date: 24 November 2006

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
Here we answered to reviewer’s requests of revision.

Reviewer 1’s report
This review is interesting and on an important topic of potential appeal to the readership of the Journal. However, the manuscript should be remodelled in a more structured fashion and as a review paper (which is not organized in an introduction-methods-results-discussion section but rather as introduction-physical basis methodology literature analysis clinical implication). In the section of literature analysis, you should discuss the main thematic areas (for instance, TCD in cardiopulmonary bypass; TCD during neonatal arch reconstruction; etc…), each with a summary table indicating reference, Author and Journal, number of patients, main findings.

As requested by the reviewer the article has been remodeled in three major sections: introduction, physical basis, methodology, literature analysis and clinical implications. However, we maintained previously defined seven main thematic areas (TCD and cerebral blood flow modifications, Role of TCD During Deep hypothermic Cardio Pulmonary Bypass Deep Hypothermic Circulatory Arrest and Low Flow Cardio Pulmonary Bypass, Role of TCD during regional low-flow perfusion for neonatal aortic arch reconstruction, Alpha versus Ph stat blood gas management, Hematocrit and Effects of cannulation for cardiopulmonary bypass): in our opinion this seems the optimal organization for selected articles. Summary tables have been added.

Minor comments:
- Correct spelling and typos throughout the text.
Abstract: (two lines before the end): Spectroscopy.
Technical considerations.
Methods: collegial should be consensus
Results: 1946?
- You can add videoclips.
Figure 3: add labels in the figure.

Corrections have been made throughout the text as requested. Even videoclips could be an intriguing idea, we unfortunately have not original material to provide.

--------------------------------------------------- ---
Technical revision
Requested formatting changes
Title Page/Page 1
Please number all pages.
Please provide all authors’ e-mail addresses.
Please remove “Word count:.…” and keyword section.
Page 12
Please move List of abbreviations before Competing interests and after Conclusions.
Page 13
Line 3: Please correct to Authors’ contributions.
Line 7: Please remove Key messages section.
Page 14
References
Please correct to:
Page 18
Please move Tables after Figure legends.
Page 20
First line: Please correct to Figure legends and move them after References.

Corrections have been made throughout the text as requested.

Best regards
Zaccaria Ricci