

Dear Editor(s),

Our research group cordially gratitude for professional and benevolent review of our manuscript.

We revised the manuscript following the reviewers' recommendations and the editor's comments.

The following corrections were made in the manuscript following the reviewers' recommendations:

1) Page 8, "Statistical data analysis"

First paragraph was added to show descriptive statistics that was applied to characterize the studied population (case series). The paragraph is highlighted.

2) Page 9, "Statistical data analysis"

It was emphasized that predictive values for each risk factor having significant association with any type of mechanical complication were identified. Definition for each predictive characteristic was added taking into consideration the context of the current study (highlighted).

3) The number of tables was decreased from 16 to 11. The primary data were removed from the tables and replaced by prognostic values making the presented results more informative (see the tables: 6-11, highlighted). References to the tables were correspondingly changed in the text: P12; P13; P14; P15; P18; P19 (highlighted).

4) Table 5 was simplified; the data concerning cumulative incidence rate and latent period of different mechanical complications were removed and showed at the Figures 6 and 7 which were added; corresponding references to these figures were made in the text, P16 (highlighted).

5) Figure 6 (last version) was renumbered to Figure 8 (current version), corresponding reference in the text was changed, P19 (highlighted).

6) Results concerning assessment of predictive values of the revealed risk factors, and in particular the developed integrative index, for each type of mechanical complication were added to the corresponding paragraphs of the "Results" section: P12; P13; P14; P17 (highlighted)

The following changes were made following the editor's comments:

1) The confirmation letter from Medicrea (New York, NY 10013, USA) concerning support of the presented study and approval of the manuscript (attached).

2) The approval letter from the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) (attached).

3) The consent forms that were used in patients, medical records of which were retrospectively analyzed (attached).

4) The conflict of interest forms completed by all coauthors are attached

5) The Certificate of Biostatistics is attached

- 6) The Core Tip Audio File is attached
- 7) The Article Highlights is added (P21-22, highlighted)
- 8) Table 16 was removed.

We do hope that the revised version of the manuscript and the added documents satisfy the requirements of your Journal.

Respectfully,

Andriy Noshchenko, PhD