

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 45262

**Title:** Successful transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect in pregnant women, guided by complete transthoracic echocardiography

**Reviewer's code:** 00742121

**Reviewer's country:** Greece

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2019-01-08

**Date reviewed:** 2019-01-09

**Review time:** 14 Hours, 1 Day

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well-written paper, worthy of publication after major revision according to the following comments: - The title should not include any acronyms; ASD and TTE should be written in full. - Abstract, Methods: The gestational age of the six pregnant women



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should be provided. - Abstract, Results: The pregnancy outcomes should be provided. - The keywords should not include any acronyms; CHD should be written in full. - Materials and Methods, 2nd paragraph: The authors state that "...procedures were performed during the second trimester of pregnancy"; the gestational age of the six pregnant women should be provided. - Materials and Methods, 3rd paragraph: The authors state that "Echocardiography revealed hemodynamically significant left-to-right shunts..."; was color Doppler used? If yes, please provide more details. - Materials and Methods, 4th paragraph: The authors state that "a domestic ASD occluder...was used...". The authors should provide more details regarding the occluder (what was the material used to produce this device?) and they should better provide a figure showing the occluder device - Materials and Methods, last paragraph: The authors should mention how the fetuses were monitored after the procedure. - Materials and Methods, Statistical analysis: In practice, and given the low number of patients, no statistical analysis was conducted; hence, this subsection should be better deleted. - Results, last two lines: The authors state that "All the infants were healthy..."; the birth weight and gender of infants, Apgar scores after vaginal delivery and any hospitalization in NICU should be provided. - Discussion, 4th paragraph: The authors state that "Ionizing radiation was used... there was exposure to both the mother and the fetus". What about abdominal lead shielding for x-rays? - Discussion, 4th paragraph: The authors state that "According to the literature, radiation use is associated with congenital malformations in the fetus and mental and growth retardation or embryonic death, as well as an increased rate of leukemia, brain tumors and childhood malignancies". It should be noted that congenital malformations and embryonic death may occur from exposure during the first trimester, while the other adverse events mentioned after exposure later in pregnancy; thus, the authors should be more specific and revise this sentence accordingly. - Discussion, 7th paragraph: The authors state that "...the number of cases

was small, and there may have been selection bias.” The main problem of studies with low number of cases is low statistical power. Please delete the last part of the sentence (i.e. “and there may have been selection bias.”). - Discussion, 7th paragraph: The authors state that “...our method was not a popular method; not all operators will accept it”. In fact, this method has only rarely been attempted during pregnancy; hence the words “not a popular” should be changed to “not a widely used”. Furthermore, the authors should explain the second part of the sentence: Why do they think that not all operators will accept it? - Discussion, 7th paragraph: The authors state that “Future studies with more multicenter trials should be undertaken to further assess the safety and efficacy of this procedure in pregnant women”. In fact, ASDs should be ideally diagnosed and treated well before a woman becomes pregnant and treatment during pregnancy should be only rarely necessary. Hence, in such clinical scenarios large trials are not even desirable and only case reports and case series may prove the feasibility of new methods in the few exceptional cases evading early diagnosis. Figures 1-5: Arrows showing the special features described in each figure legend should be added.

## **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication



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[ ] Plagiarism

[Y] No