


eComment: Re: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for treatment of cardiac failure in adult patients

Authors: Leo A. Bockeria, Bakoulev Center for Cardiovascular Surgery, 121552 Moscow, Russia; Konstantin V. Shatalov, Irina V. Arnautova, Maxim M. Makhalin
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The current study is of special interest for those specialists who face severe heart failure after open-heart surgery. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is an effective procedure in the treatment of severe post-surgical heart failure resistant to pharmacotherapy. When correctly used as it is indicated the success rate may reach 58% [1]. According to the literature, data survival rate may vary from 29% [2] to 65% [3]. The results of ECMO application may differ depending on patients’ age, initial status, type of surgical procedure, type of postoperative complications [2–5]. Certainly, it is important to use ECMO also as a bridge to heart transplantation. Meanwhile the mortality is still high (42%) because of the severity of initial status. Other high-risk factors of mortality are multiorgan failure, generalized infection, coagulation system disorders. Patients suffering from renal failure and demanding hemodialysis are in the high-risk group as well. Combining ECMO with other mechanical circulatory support systems (e.g. IABP) and preventive treatment of possible complications may improve the clinical results. Despite the little experience shown in the current study we congratulate the authors on their results.

References


