Effects of cardiopulmonary bypass on new-onset atrial fibrillation

To the Editor,

We read the article titled "SYNTAX score predicts postoperative atrial fibrillation in patients undergoing on-pump isolated coronary artery bypass grafting surgery" that is published in Anatolian J Cardiol October 18. Epub ahead of print (1), in which the authors described the effects of SYNTAX score on postoper-

ative atrial fibrillation, with great interest. In this study, the groups are well balanced and standardized in many aspects, but there is no data revealing the duration of the on-pump procedures, which is very important and forms a basic variable in coronary artery bypass grafting. On the other hand, one should underline the two major causes of atrial fibrillation as cardiopulmonary bypass and oxidative stress/inflammatory response triggered by cross clamping (2–4). Many cellular and non-cellular elements are activated during cardiopulmonary bypass, particularly the triggering pro-inflammatory mechanisms (5). Thus, we strongly believe that the groups in this study should have been standardized considering the cardiopulmonary bypass and cross-clamp times if the SYNTAX score is a predictor of postoperative atrial fibrillation. We would deeply appreciate if the authors share their opinion or any data related to the matter.

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