**Answers to editorial comments**

• Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammatical errors.

**The manuscript is proofread and the required modifications are written in red.**

1) The title was edited for grammar and clarity.

**I thank you for clarifying the title.**  
• Please include an ethics statement before your numbered protocol steps indicating that the protocol follows the guidelines of your institutions human research ethics committee.

**This statement has been added.**  
• **Protocol Detail:**  
1) 2.1.1: How is heparin administered here? Is it supplied through the IV line?

**This information is added to the step.**

2) 2.2.1: Please mention the starting point of the incision.

**This information is added to the step.**

3) 2.2.7: How is this secured?

**This information is added to the step.**

4) **Several of your filmed (highlighted) steps lack details. It is important that all actions are detailed to ensure good quality scripting and voice-over production. After matching the provided time stamps and steps, it appears that the video shows multiple actions that are not described. Please mention all surgical tools used (avoid commercial terms). Please mention any additional details as substeps (eg 2.1.1.X).** Some examples are listed below:  
a) 2.2.3: Please mention the surgical tool used for incision.

**This information is added to the step. This step has been split into several action steps.**

b) 2.2.4: How is the dissection done? Please mention this using a substep

**This information is added to the step. This step has been split into several action steps.**

c) 2.2.5: What type of loop is this? Is it tied?

**This information is added to the step. This step has been split into several action steps.**

d) 2.2.8: How is the cannula secured? The video shows multiple actions that are not described involving steps to secure the cannulas.

**This information is added to the step. This step has been split into several action steps.**

e) Please check all your highlighted steps to ensure that sufficient description is available to match the actions in the video.

**All highlighted steps are checked to ensure that sufficient description is available to match the actions in the video.**  
  
• **Protocol Numbering:** Please adjust the numbering of your protocol section to follow JoVE’s instructions for authors, 1. should be followed by 1.1. and then 1.1.1. if necessary and all steps should be lined up at the left margin with no indentations. There must also be a one-line space between each protocol step.

**The numbering of the protocol section is readjusted to follow JoVE’s instructions for authors with a one-line space between each protocol step.**  
  
• **Protocol Highlight:** Two video files were provided, please let us know which file matches the time stamps. The two files names are “Herz OP kurzere version” and “Herz OP Langversion”.

**The video file described is the “Herz OP kurzere version”.**  
• **Discussion:**  
1) Line 296: Do you mean pulmonary “artery”?

**Yes, this has been added.**

2) Lines 333-345: Please provide recommendations for estimating the elasticity, how do you choose patients? Are any imaging techniques such as ultrasound elastography or MR elastrography used?

**Evaluation of appropriateness of tissue elasticity is clarified.**  
• **Figures:**: The scale references (1mm on figure= 2mm) were deleted as figures scale up and down on the final submission. The scale bars available on the figure are sufficient. Please ensure that they are correct.

**The scale references are again added to the figures’ legends.**  
• **Commercial Language:** Please replace Prolene with “polyethylene monofilament suture”.

**Prolene has been replaced by polypropylene.**

• **Table of Materials:**Please revise the table of the essential supplies, reagents, and equipment. The table should include the name, company, and catalog number of all relevant materials/software in separate columns in an xls/xlsx file. Please include items such as dacron graft, clamps etc.

**The Table of Materials has been expanded by adding the instruments, suture and electrocautery lacking in the previous version. The clamps and dacron graft were already referenced in the previous version.**