Reviewer's report

Title: Atrial Endocarditis - A Rare Hidden Footprint of Mitral Valve Endocarditis

Version: 2 Date: 25 September 2012

Reviewer: Shawn Gregory

Reviewer's report:

An interesting report that conveys the importance of looking for this complication in cases of mitral valve endocarditis.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The title is confusing. Please consider rewording.
2. In the abstract you conclude that a comprehensive echocardiographic evaluation be undertaken. Does this mean all such patients should have both a TTE and a TEE? What if the TTE shows the lesions in question? Is that enough? Shouldnt the surgeon inspect the atrium and surround structures carefully intraoperatively regardless?
3. Background. I suggest you summarize the known background in a bit more detail.
5. Case presentation. please check wording carefully, e.g., "a poor dental hygiene", "with suspicious vegetations" (one could argue all vegetations are "suspicious"?), "grade I of lower esophageal varice", etc.
6. Case presentation. In the narrative please define how the histopathological evaluation was conclusive for atrial and mitral valve endocarditis. Were organisms seen? Just inflammatory changes?
7. Case presentation. How is the patient doing now? How is his valve?
8. Conclusions. Again, is TEE particularly irreplaceable? What if TTE shows the disease? Surgical inspection. Please clarify.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'