Reviewer’s report

Title: Distal end side-to-side anastomoses of sequential vein graft to small target coronary arteries improve graft patency

Version: 2 Date: 14 March 2014

Reviewer: Michael Behnes

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions: None

Minor essential revisions and discretionary revisions:

• Were the revisions from end-to-side to side-to-side anastomosis performed within one operating procedure in all of the 14 patients? Please clear this up.
• Measurements of CKMB levels as a biomarker of sufficient side-to-side anastomosis are questionable. CKMB levels are expected to decrease after successful cardiac surgery anyway, independently of the different techniques of distal anastomosis. There is no direct comparative group indicating CKMB levels in patients with end-to-side versus side-to-side anastomosis. Please add this to the study’s limitation.
• Please add some more literature specifically about distal anastomosis techniques, which might illustrate the problems within this specific setting. Please include these within introduction and discussion.
• Please summarize limiting parts of the study (as the authors describe them already within the discussion section) within a separate section “study limitations”. Thereby, discussion will be shortened and become easier to read (also see above).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.