Reviewer's report

Title: Intra-abdominal pressure alterations after large pancreatic pseudocyst transcutaneous drainage

Version: 1 Date: 24 November 2008

Reviewer: William Brugge

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This is a 9 month prospective, single institution study of 27 patients with a pancreatic pseudocyst. The authors sought to determine the effect of pseudocyst drainage on the intra-abdominal pressure (as measured with a urinary bladder catheter). The patients were divided into two groups: A (CT guided pseudocyst drainage) and B (no drainage). The authors found that pseudocyst drainage was associated with a decrease, but transient, in intra-abdominal pressure.

Comments to the authors

1. The authors should comment on the location of the pseudocysts and whether the retroperitoneal location will effect intra-abdominal pressure
2. It would have been interesting to know the rate of reaccumulation of the pseudocyst after drainage. Perhaps the rise in the IAP after drainage was a result of reaccumulation of pseudocyst fluid.
3. How were the patients assigned to the groups?
4. The clinical significance in the elevated IAP is not clear
5. Please provide the characteristics of the pseudocyst fluid (protein concentration, WBC count, amylase, and CEA)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Consultant, Boston Scientific