Reviewer's report

Title: Intractable Duodenal Ulcer Caused by Transmural Migration of Gossypiboma into Duodenum - A Case Report and Literature Review

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Joachim Reibetanz

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting paper entitled “Intractable duodenal ulcer caused by transmural migration of gossypiboma into duodenum – A case report and literature review”. The presented case report is interesting and well illustrated, and the authors performed an exhaustive literature review (50 literature citations). After some revisions, I would recommend its publication. However, I have a few questions / notes for these authors.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

I have a question regarding the proposed therapeutic scheme / treatment strategy and the option of “closely observation” as mentioned in the Conclusion as well as in Fig. 4.: In the discussion section, the authors propose that “Gossypibomas should be removed as soon as diagnosed” (and I support this). However, for migrated gossypibomas Fig. 4 leaves us with the option of “Observation” in asymptomatic cases. According to the literature review of the authors, observation was successful only in one of the presented cases (“spontaneously expelled”, Lit. 5). Would it not be better to come to the conclusion that observation is not a useful option in case of gossypiboma and is rarely supported by literature?

Minor Points:

There are some typographical errors in the manuscript that should be corrected in the final version (e.g. riview (p.2), tmography (p.4), cae (p. 6))

Discretionary Revisions:

On page 6, the description of cases of gossypibomas migrated into the gastrointestinal tract and the causative initial surgery is difficult to read due to the many “(...)”. Maybe it would be better to give us these informations in another table?

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