Reviewer's report

Title: Perforated Sigmoid Diverticulitis in a Lumbar Hernia after Iliac Crest Bone Graft - Report of a Case and Review of the Literature

Version: 2 Date: 14 May 2014

Reviewer: Marco Ceresoli

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The case reported is really very uncommon and quite interesting. However the discussion is very poor and the most interesting aspects of the case are not discussed and argued:

1. The title of your paper cites a review of the literature: you didn’t explain how the review was performed and in the discussion this aspect is too summary and superficial (see later)

2. In the case presentation you should indicate more clearly the surgical technique you adopted: for the hernia repair did you change the position of the patient? Why did you perform hernia repair with the prosthesis placement before than sigmoid resection, increasing the risk of a contamination?

3. The discussion about the lumbar hernia is insufficient, too concise, you should offer a more exhaustive overview of the techniques and the difference adopted in your approach, as the position of the patient.

4. The discussion about perforated diverticulitis is also insufficient, too concise and repeat the same sentences of the introduction. You should focus your discussion on the technique chosen and role of laparoscopic peritoneal lavage with more exhaustive information.

5. The discussion of the two situations combined should be certainly the most interesting section of your report, underlining the singularity of the case presented and the implication in the treatment. You should argue more deeply all the aspects. A special attention should be given to the choose of the prosthetic material for the hernia repair: why did you choose a biologic material? And why, among various types, did you choose a cross-linked biologic prosthesis? I think your decision was correct and to motivate it you should mention a very interesting decision model published by Coccolini et al in World Journal of Emergency Surgery in 2012 (Coccolini et al. Italian Biological Prosthesis Work-Group (IBPWG): proposal for a decisional model in using biological prosthesis. World J Emerg Surg. 2012 Nov 2;7(1):34. doi: 10.1186/1749-7922-7-34.)

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. In “case presentation” section you should change the term melioration with the more common improvement; change operation duration with operation time;
change “dorsal recumbent position” with the more common “supine”

2. In case presentation you did not indicate in which Hinchey’s class is the patients; you should also indicate the reason of prior spinal fusion.

- Minor issues not for publication
  1. In “case presentation” section there is a type error (…umbilicus._Two 12…);
  2. In discussion section, perforated diverticulitis paragraph, is missing a closing bracket.
  3. The English text is too fragmented, you should make it more fluent.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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