Reviewer’s report

Title: Epiploic Appendagitis - Clinical Characteristics of an Uncommon Surgical Diagnosis

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2007

Reviewer: Elie CHOUILLARD

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a 10-patient retrospective case series of a relatively uncommon, ill-known disease which is seldom correctly diagnosed.
The authors have not mentioned clearly throughout their introduction as well as in the Material and Methods section the real purpose of their study. Is it to define clinical or paraclinical criteria for the diagnosis or to underscore treatment options?
The patients’ number seems to be too small to fulfill any of these purposes.
Methods are not well described with insufficient details provided.
Discussion and conclusion are mainly structured around a historical and pathological description of the disease.
No sound practical management guidelines are proposed.
English is not perfect and some sections need to be profoundly reshaped.
Pages are not numbered.
I believe a simple case report with one illustrative case would have been more scolar with a detailed description of symptoms, biology and CT findings. A review of the literature would have completed perfectly this short reminder of a frequently overlooked diagnosis

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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