Reviewer's report

Title: Management of gastro-bronchial fistula complicating a near-total esophagectomy: Case report

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2009

Reviewer: Mohan Devbhandari

Reviewer's report:

I have read with interest article entitled Management of gastro-bronchial fistula complicating a near-total esophagectomy: Case report by Martin-Smith and colleagues. They have described an early gastro-bronchial fistula following an esophagectomy which was managed conservatively with good outcome.

Majority of the cases reported in the literature required some form of intervention either surgical or endoscopic. There may be a place for conservatory treatment in rare case like this where patient is stable, the gastric conduit is healthy and anatomy is not suitable for endoscopic intervention. However interventional strategy is required in most of the cases and surgeons must be aware of all the options available. I think this strategy should be used very selectively after careful consideration to all the clinical, anatomical and logistical considerations.

I would recommend publication of the paper in the journal.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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