Reviewer’s report

Title: The serpentine mitral valve and cerebral embolism.

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2011

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting case report addressing an uncommon case of systemic embolism due to mitral strands. The differential diagnosis is difficult and episodes such as the one here described may remain unsettled. There some major issues that author should address:

In the case presentation not all potential source of emboli has been investigated: paradoxical embolism? Presence of PFO?, Deep vein thorombosis; arrhythmias (paroxysmal atrial fibrillation).

There is no basis to prescribe double antiplatelet therapy if the source of embolism is mitral strand.

In line with this comment and due to the high uncertainty of differential diagnosis, no mention to history of endocarditis.

The conclusions should be toned because the pathophysiological mechanism underlying the clinical presentation is only hypothetical.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests