Reviewer's report

Title: Off-pump repair of a post-infarct ventricular septal defect: The 'Hamburger procedure'.

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2006

Reviewer: Vipin Zamvar

Reviewer's report:

General
This case report describes a new technique for off-pump repair of post-infarct VSD repair.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1) If reference available to any previous literature on "Hamburger procedure", please include it.
2) Operative Details: Please provide more details of the operative procedure, with line diagrams, to help readers get a clearer idea of how the plication sutures are placed. (specifically, where does the needle enter, and exit)
3) Please mention, if in your opinion this technique would be more suited for any particular type of VSD. Would there be any situations where this procedure may not be suitable?

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?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable