Reviewer's report

Title: Unique Type Of Isolated Cardiac Valvular Amyloidosis

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2006

Reviewer: Farhang F Alaee

Reviewer's report:

General

--Despite the fact that it took me a few times of reading the article to grasp its point, I find it an interesting article provided that some more explanation be given on a few issues.

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

I would think that the most important issue here is twofold:
1. How confidently the authors have been able to exclude the fact that this finding does not come under the categories of Senile/Dystrophic valvular amyloidosis. Obviously, the patient is old and has been found to have bicuspid aortic valve which is known to cause increased shearing forces and ultimately lead to scarring and calcification. The description of pathological findings at this stage becomes crucial: "... much of the material was hyalinised fibrin consistent with organizing thrombus. However within the cardiac valve, the presence of amyloid deposits was demonstrated."
Now it is not clear if there is any scarring in the valve tissue and what is the relation of the fibrin material with the amyloid deposit.

2. Did the investigation to exclude systemic amyloidosis go as far as tissue biopsy from the rectal mucosa or elsewhere?

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

1. It is useful to give percentage of affected heart valves in order of frequency in subtypes of amyloidosis.
2. Is NIDDM known to contribute to development of such pathology?
3. Give units of measurement for Serum creatinine and albumin.
4. Clarify the pictures with arrows showing the pathology.

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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable