Reviewer's report

Title: Left Ventricle Reconstruction By Double-Patch Sandwich Technique After Postinfarction Aneurysm Resection

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2006

Reviewer: Giovanni Battista Luciani

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a brief manuscript by Tappeiner and associates from the Division of Cardiac Surgery of Mantua, Italy, on an alternative technique to treat LV aneurysm or remodelling of akinetic areas. In general, I believe the manuscript to be original and of interest to surgeons dealing with LV remodelling. The procedure and clinical series are also well documented. I believe the scientific accuracy of the work and some minor language issues deserve improvement. Nonetheless, I strongly advise publication after due revisions.

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

1. In the Abstract and Methods section it is necessary to indicate the time interval during which the procedures were performed. In addition, please indicate the number of LV aneurysm or LV remodelling operations done during the same time frame using other techniques.
2. In the three tables (particularly tables 1 and 3) a last row giving the mean +/-SD values for each variable analyzed is necessary.
3. In the Methods section, the t test must be for paired data and two-tailed. If a simple t test was carried out, than it must be repeated.
4. Do not repeat in text (Methods section) data already presented in Tables.

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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. Given the technique was applied for LV aneurysm in 6 pts and for LV remodelling of akinetic areas in the other 6, consider changing Title to simply "LV remodelling by double-patch sandwich technique"
2. The reviewer understands that the addition of internal pericardial patch (the third patch?) was adopted in the last 3 patients. However, is this now a integral part of the repair? Are we now dealing with 3 instead of 2 patches? If so, please explain.
3. In Results section, CEC should be corrected with bypass.
4. Avoid redundant and lengthy descriptions of technique. In particular, the Discussion section needs to be shortened.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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