Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of Bronchial Airway Obstruction using a Rotating Tip Tracheal Microdebrider

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2006

Reviewer: Luis F Angel

Reviewer’s report:

In the article “Treatment of bronchial airway obstruction using a rotating tip tracheal microdebrider”, Dr. Kennedy et al, describe a case report of a 53 year old male with advanced lung cancer with complete obstruction of the left main bronchus into the distal left lower lobe. There was no complete collapse of the left lower lobe by radiographs and the patient has a pneumonia and pulmonary embolism. They describe the use of a long tip microdebrider with successful removal of the tumor in the airway and re-expansion of the left lower lobe.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The limitations of this paper are inherent to the description of a single case report in a center that has large volume of patients with lung cancer and a group of experienced interventional pulmonologist. There are some confounding factors such as the use of multiple modalities before and after the use of the microdebrider which are commonly used in these cases but for purposes of publication and description of a new modality are confounding factors. Dr. Kennedy used polypectomy snare, electrocautery, argon plasma coagulation, microdebrider, rigid bronchoscopy and stent placement.

In the conclusion the statement describe that the successful management was due to the use of the microdebrider, however, this reinforces the point before that this patients require multiple modality therapy and that the microdebrider with the elongated tip is very helpful in situations like the one described in this case report.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The classification of the tumor is different in the abstract (T2N1M1 and T2M2N1) in the case description.
2. Next paragraph change lower lower zone for left lower zone.
3. CT abbreviation should be defined in the sentence before.
4. Change enoxaparin therapy for anticoagulation with low molecular weight heparin (enoxaparin).

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