Reviewer's report

Title: Accelerated intimal hyperplasia in aortocoronary internal mammary vein grafts in minipigs

Version: 1 Date: 30 January 2008

Reviewer: Ruediger Autschbach

Reviewer's report:

The article of Popov et al deals with a new method to induce and observe intimal hyperplasia. This nice work has carried out in 6 minipigs and the authors concluded that intimal hyperplasia is present in the internal mammary vein after using it as a aortocoronary bypass.

Besides to the fact that I can not see reasons to perform such a big operation, needing many ressources, I am missing some data regarding flows and angiographic visualisation to demonstrate integrity of the bypasses.

My major concern is that intact internal mammary veins are compared with (bypass)internal mammary veins. There is no control like another bypass made of normel(leg)veins to further support the "accelerated" intimal hyperplasia. It is not surprising that a vein (probably this special one not really investigated before)develops intimal hyperplasia.

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 limited interest

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.