Reviewer's report

**Title:** Interventional Bronchoscopy for Benign Tracheobronchial Diseases under Cardiopulmonary Bypass Support: Case Reports and Literature Review

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 4 March 2008

**Reviewer:** rajesh shah

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting case with limited literature review of using CPB to support airway intervention. The authors are to be commended on achieving a successful outcome in the first patient. It reflects the value of lateral thinking in a difficult situation.

Major Compulsory revisions: the authors should make clear in the case report / discussions the reason for using CPB (Primarily to support oxygenation rather than haemodynamics). Would the authors provide answers to a few questions relating to the first patient:

- why was a silicone stent used to stent intermediate bronchus and ultraflex on the left side?
- why was the silicone stent removed? was it the cause of stridor?
- was the patient resuscitated from the cardiorespiratory arrest and then airway intervention carried out with CPB support or was CPB used to support the arrest?
- what was the heparin dose used? was it full or limited dose as required to support ECMO?

The authors should consider editing the clinical presentation of the first patient (details of the patient's medication are probably unnecessary).

With regards to the second patient:

- How severe was the laryngotracheal stenosis?
- Did the patient have stridor?

Can the authors consider making some general recommendations on the basis of personal experience and literature review the cases in which CPB / Extracorporeal lung support should be considered.

Minor Revisions:

- the references need not be in capitals.

**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: Acceptable