Reviewer’s report

Title: Axillary Artery To Left Anterior Descending Coronary Artery Bypass With An Externally Stented Graft: A Technical Report.

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2008

Reviewer: GEORGE T. STAVIDIS

Reviewer’s report:

Although the technique of the axillary artery to coronary artery bypass grafting has been addressed by many authors previously, the novel approach of Athanasiou and colleagues deserves further commending as it integrates the concept of externally supporting the saphenous vein conduit with a Dacron graft. The “support” theory is supposed to both, protect the vein throughout its tortuous and long transthoracic pathway, and serve as an external stent with the potential advantage of reducing the mechanical stress and avoiding therefore the neointimal hyperplasia which invariably leads to graft failure. The latter pathophysiologic assumption of course can not be applied for the whole length of the conduit, as the Dacron tube is illustrated in the article, to cover part of the saphenous vein (the relative to the vein graft length of the Dacron tube has not been stated in the text -Minor Essential Revision). The cardiac surgical community at the moment lacks data to suggest the routine external stenting of the vein grafts.

The authors are to be considered pioneers of a remarkable modification to an old technique, as such an approach has never been reported previously.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable