Reviewer's report

Title: Complication in vacuum assisted closure- A rare case of ventricle rupture and overview of 54 cases in cardio-thoracic surgery

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2008

Reviewer: Ulrik Sartipy

Reviewer's report:

This is a manuscript presenting 54 patients (out of 3668 cardiac operations) with deep sternal infection who were treated by vacuum-assisted closure therapy and a subsequent muscular pectoralis plasty between January 2005 and April 2007. Complications during hospital stay until discharge were reported. The authors also give a more detailed presentation of a fatal cardiac rupture during vacuum assisted closure therapy.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Is this an original research paper or a case report? I would recommend the authors to focus on either reporting results in their series of 54 patients or presenting a case report of the fatal cardiac rupture, not both in the same manuscript.

2. Also, patient characteristics (demographics) is insufficiently described, the main results (Table 4 and 5) are presented in an unclear fashion.

Minor Essential Revisions

Discretionary Revisions

Unfortunately, I can not see any additional value of this manuscript over previously published papers, some of which are referenced below.


Sjögren J, Malmsjö M, Gustafsson R, Ingemansson R. Poststernotomy mediastinitis: a review of conventional surgical treatments, vacuum-assisted closure therapy and presentation of the Lund University Hospital mediastinitis
algorithm.


**Level of interest:** Reject as not of sufficient priority to merit publishing in this journal

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.