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: 4 September 2008

Reviewer: Stanislaw Stawicki

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
(1) Please revise the title to focus on the complications overall. The ventricular rupture is an interesting complication, but it is only one of many complications reported, and should not be the focus of the title.

(2) Again, please de-emphasize (but not remove) the theme of ventricular rupture throughout the manuscript -- If the focus of the article is ventricular rupture, then the authors should convert the manuscript to a case report.

(3) Please remove the heading "CASE" from the results. Instead, shorten the case report and make it into a single paragraph in the RESULTS section.

(4) Please consult/reference a recent review by Cipolla et al., regarding innovative and unusual uses of negative pressure wound therapy. It contains a section dedicated to NPWT use in the setting of complicated sternal wound.

(5) Please remove the term "VACUUM-ASSISTED CLOSURE" from the manuscript. Instead, use the term "NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY (NPWT)". Also, please provide a brief overview of all currently available commercial products capable of delivering NPWT.

(6) The authors should provide photographs of NPWT being applied to the sternal wound... It is important for others to see how the authors manage technical aspects of NPWT dressing placement on the chest.

(7) Have the authors found that the application of NPWT to sternal wound speeds up the patient's return to activities that are otherwise difficult to achieve without NPWT (i.e., ambulation, sitting in chair, maybe even earlier discharge to home)? If so, please comment in the discussion.

(8) When should NPWT be discontinued? When should the NPWT dressing be converted to traditional (wet-to-moist) dressing, etc? How often do you recommend the NPWT dressings be changed?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.