Reviewer’s report

Title: Intramural Haemotoma of the Thoracic Aorta: an emergency for the Cardiac Surgeon.

Version: 1 Date: 12 July 2009

Reviewer: Christophoros Foroulis

Reviewer’s report:

The authors review an important topic of aortic pathology, aortic intramural hematoma. I have the following comments:

a) Major compulsory revisions

1) The references list has to be updated with all recent publications. All the arranged references are published at or before 2005.

2) The authors should give the exact definition of the condition of intramural aortic hematoma in the introduction of their review (i.e. hemorrhagic dissection of the media without intimal tear). They should also state that intramural hematoma represents the class II aortic dissection according to the classification proposed by European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Task Force on aortic dissection (European Heart Journal 2001). According to the ESC task force report, aortic intramural hematomas are also classified in two subtypes, I and II. The article mentioned just before has to be included in the references list. I believe that the whole article has to be revised according to the classification proposed by ESC.

3) In the diagnosis section of the manuscript the authors should mention the newer diagnostic modalities, such as multi-detector CT imaging of the aorta. Recent references has to accompany the revised section (i.e. Chao et al, Natural history and appearances of aortic intramural hematoma, Radiographics 2009; 29: 791-804)

4) In the Predictors of early and late progression sections the authors should make more clear the imaging characteristics of the aorta which are connected with better prognosis.

b) Minor compulsory revisions

5) In page 7, the last sentence of the last paragraph of pathogenesis and pathophysiology section has to be removed (This is the issue.....). In addition the paragraph is too long and has to be limited by giving the current knowledge on pathogenesis/pathophysiology.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.