Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 23 July 2009

Reviewer: FANY CHRONIDOU

Reviewer’s report:

I read with interest the review article of Baikoussis and Apostolakis who provide interesting aspects of an issue which causes controversies in management between cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, but among cardiac surgeons as well.

In their article the authors present a useful overview of the pathophysiology and progress of the intramural aortic haematoma which in many cases is overlooked by the surgeons who procced when there is a profound dissection or a remarkable aortic dilatation. From the other hand it gives another view for the cardiologists of the continuing medical therapy when a patient with chronic hypertencion starts complaining for atypical chest or back pain.

In the recent years aortic pathology, management and patient’s outcome has become of great interest so to be at the agenta for a lot of international meetings and studies.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION

1. Although the article is reffered to a lot of puplications I believe that more recent studies could give further informations about the selection of the patients who can managed medically or need to undergo an urgent or emergency surgical treatment.

2. In the paragraph about “predictors of late progression” its written twice “i-blockers” I believe that the authors mean “b-blockers”

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’