Reviewer's report

Title: Use of Endobronchial One-Way Valves Reveals Questions on Etiology of Spontaneous Pneumothorax: report of three cases

Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2009

Reviewer: Steven Sahn

Reviewer's report:

The authors submitted a very thought-provoking manuscript on the use of endobronchial one-way valves and spontaneous pneumothorax. They present three illustrative cases and conclude that the application of these endobronchial valves to a single upper lobe segmental airway fails to terminate the air leak, and the leak only ceased following placement of multiple valves to occlude all the lobar segments. Their observation questions the traditional belief of "one-airway-one-bleb-one-leak" in spontaneous pneumothorax. I recommend acceptance without revision, and I believe that their findings will be of importance in the field of managing spontaneous pneumothoraces with persistent air leaks.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable