Reviewer's report

Title: Repair of injured right inferior pulmonary vein during mitral valve replacement

Version: 1 Date: 21 September 2009

Reviewer: Paul Cronin

Reviewer's report:

Comments:

Review Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery,
Repair of injured right inferior pulmonary vein during mitral valve replacement.

Article Type: Case Report

Primary objective: To describe the intraoperative injured of the right inferior pulmonary vein in a patient who underwent mitral valve replacement, and the successful repair of the ostium of the right inferior pulmonary vein using an autologous pericardial patch incorporated into the completion of left atriotomy closure.

The COMMENTS are all – Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract: Overall appropriate,

COMMENT 1: The authors state “or the inferior is more forward to the level of the posterior”. This sentence is confusing and needs to be restated.

Keywords: None.

Our Case

COMMENT 2: The author states that “The left atrium was found to be 42 mm in diameter”. It would worth putting what the normal range in size for the left atrium for a 70-79 year old male to give the reader an idea of how small the left atrium is in this patient.

Discussion

COMMENT 3: The authors state “It should be possibly due to the fact that the cases of this injury are included in the general report as “postoperative bleeding” or “postoperative respiratory insufficiency”. This sentence can be removed.

COMMENT 4: The authors state “Accidental total thrombosis of both pulmonary veins after ablation for AF may be misdiagnosed for 8-16 weeks [2, 4]”. I assume AF stands for atrial fibrillation please spell out.
References: Overall, appropriate. However, if more references exist please include.

Figure Legends: Appropriate.

Figures: Overall nicely illustrated with line diagrams but Figure 4 is of poor quality (pixilated) and there are no indicating arrows to aid the reader understanding the final surgical repair.

Summary Statement: A rare complication but an important clinical issue. Not previously described. There are several grammatical errors and this manuscript needs to be edited by a native English speaker but this is a minor point.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'