Reviewer's report

Title: Intra-abdominal hypertension due to heparin-induced retroperitoneal hematoma in patients with ventricle assist devices: report of four cases and review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 12 September 2010

Reviewer: George Chatzoulis

Reviewer's report:

General
The article is of scientific interest as it deals with a particularly rare association between a treatment device and a rare complication.

Major revisions:

Discussion
1. Regarding the ACS management laparostomy or decompression therapy is the mainstay in order the patients being stabilized with progressive improvement in hemodynamic and ventilatory parameters, initially. On the other hand surgery to remove the haematoma may reduce the effect of tamponade and worsening the patient’s condition. On this basis, why the authors choose one only to packed and reexplore and not the whole amount of the patients? Make a comment in Discussion chapter.

2. Was heparin induced thrombocytopenia interfered to the production of this retroperitoneal hematoma, by also measured the postoperative platelets? Make also a comment in Discussion chapter.

Minor revisions:

Background: second paragraph: 4th line: Long sentence with misspelling, and obscure meaning.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests