Reviewer's report

Title: Mitral valve surgery for mitral regurgitation caused by Libman-Sacks endocarditis: a report of four cases and a systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2010

Reviewer: Thomas L. de Kroon

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Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors suggest that in most patients hemodynamically important valvular dysfunction can be controlled with conservative treatment, including heart failure therapy. Maybe this can be more specified, according to the guidelines (ACC/AHA 2006).

2. The authors stress the point that mitral valve repair is feasible in LS endocarditis. From their review the opposite conclusion can be drawn. The longest follow-up is, except for their own case in which the diagnosis LS endocarditis was not histological proven, 3 years.

In patients who are advised to use anticoagulation for the rest of their life (page 10), a replacement with chordal preservation may not be a bad option.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'