**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Sternal reentry in a patient with previous deep sternal wound infection managed with horizontal titanium plate fixation

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 May 2010

**Reviewer:** Jose Ignacio Saez de Ibarra

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is a well written unique case report describing the management of redo sternotomy in a patient with a history of deep wound sternal infection due to S. Aureus and managed with vacuum therapy and delayed titanium plate fixation of the sternum adding pectoralis flap covering.

The authors have a huge experience and have published several manuscripts demonstrating the efficacy of this method in shortening the duration of hospitalization in this annoying complication.

This reports shows that a redo sternotomy after titanium transverse plate fixation is safely feasible. The technique is well illustrated with pictures.

**Other comments:**

In this case the plates were cut to avoid re-dissecting an unfriendly surgical field. The closure was performed with standard method conventional sterna wires.

Would you suggest to manufacturer the implementation of an additive fixation system capable to set a new plate over the already implanted simplifying the closure while avoiding dissection of posterior sternal bone?

I suggest to add new updated references of the same center which complement important and clinically relevant information.


- Recurrent sternal infection following treatment with negative pressure wound therapy and titanium transverse plate fixation
  
  Geneviève Gaudreauta, Victor Costacheb, Chanel Houdea, Daniel Cloutiera, Livia Montalina, Pierre Voisinea, Richard Baillot
  
  Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2010;37:888-892

**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