Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2010

Reviewer: James Mahoney

Reviewer's report:

An interesting case report. It deals with the technical considerations of repeat cardiac surgery after sternal plating using the Synthes Sternal Fixation System. I am not clear why the plates were not just simply removed and the sternotomy performed. Would it be possible to reapply or reapproximate the plates? Were the rest of the plate portions left after cutting? To help the surgeon confronted with this scenario Comment on the type and strength of the sternal repair at the time of closure. Comment on the degree of substernal scarring - was it more or less than anticipated?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I have participated in educational events sponsored by Synthes for which I have received an honorarium.