Reviewer's report

Title: A huge hepatocellular metastatic tumor of the right atrium causing acute right heart failure: A case report.

Version: 1 Date: 10 April 2011

Reviewer: Theodore Velissaris

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This is a very unusual case and it would be interesting for surgical colleagues to read. It is written in very good English and the discussion is well structured.

The surgeon of this patient should be congratulated because he took on a very high risk patient and undertook surgery completely successfully. Cirrhotic patients don't do well after cardiopulmonary bypass and the combination of cirrhosis and a cardiac tumour is particularly challenging. What I find interesting about such cases is that in many surgical departments patients like the presented case would not be offered surgery because of the combination of very high risk and very poor long-term outcome even with successful surgery. Personally I feel that as long as such patients are fully informed they should be offered a surgical option, especially younger patients like the one of this case.

The case can be reported as it is, however there are two minor points the authors could clarify if they wish (discretionary revisions):

First, it would be interesting to know what is the current state of the patient, or what was the survival.

Second, I wasn't quite sure why arterial access for cardiopulmonary bypass was through the femoral artery and not through the ascending aorta.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests