Reviewer's report

Title: Surgical Reconstruction of the Left Main Coronary Artery with Patch-Angioplasty

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2010

Reviewer: Mattia Glauber

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Study group very small, collected in 10 years from 7200 patients. This suggests that the procedure couldn't be largely applied and would be hardly reproducible. In addition to this, 10 of 37 didn't undergo the procedure and authors further narrow the field of applicability of their surgical reconstruction to only proximal stenosis or minor calcification.

2. The article also introduces a different problem from the main topic: the catheterization-induced spasm of left main coronary artery and the consequent uncertainty on confirming a real LMCA stenosis: this point should need a different place and arguments to be discussed.

3. Authors admit that "long term follow-up is required to determine the patency" but is not very clearly stated what kind of test and on what time interval the patients underwent except, apparently, angiography from 1 to 6 months. To summarize, the "follow-up" chapter is extremely poor of informations.

4. Remains unclear on what basis the authors claim that "the results after surgical reconstruction of the left ostial stenosis are comparable with those after conventional CABG", on such a small group of patients and without strong data from a short/medium term follow-up.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The statement that "conventional grafting provides a retrograde perfusion to extensive myocardial area leading to competitive flow of the non occluded coronaries thus consuming the grafts" is quite generic, inaccurate and would require some reference background, if not precise data, to be claimed.

2. Many of the patients included suffered of a concomitant aortic valvular disease: it could be acceptable probing the coronary ostia or a patch enlarging procedure in those patient, while the same procedures can hardly be compared, in terms of cumulative operative risks, to conventional, maybe off pump, revascularisation in isolated coronary artery disease.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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