Reviewer's report

Title: Is there an optimal minimally invasive technique for left anterior descending coronary artery bypass?

Version: 2 Date: 9 March 2011

Reviewer: David Holzhey

Reviewer's report:

Comments:

The article is interesting and a good number of patients has been analysed. However, several point need to be addressed before publishing the paper:

1) The whole paper need to undergo a thorough language revision. E.g. in the conclusion paragraph of the abstract: “least lost effective” should be replaced by “most lost effective”

2) The inclusion of 19 converted TECAB patients into the MIDCAB group should not be done. These patients should either form a separate group or remain in the TECAB group. The high TECAB conversion rate should be discussed.

3) It is unusual to compare more than 2 groups with the statistical tests mentioned in the text. Other statistical means (e.g. ANOVA) seem to be more appropriate.

4) The median follow-up time is rather short compared to the long follow-up period that is plotted in the figure. At least patients at risk should be reported for each year to evaluate the validity of the curves.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.

David Holzhey