Reviewer’s report

Title: Intrapericardial Migration of Dislodged Sternal Struts as Late Complication of Open Pectus Excavatum Repairs

Version: 1 Date: 3 February 2011

Reviewer: Anton Wintner

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Drs. Zamvar and Taggart:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the case study entitled, “Intrapericardial Migration of Dislodged Sternal Struts as Late Complication of Open Pectus Excavatum Repair” by Zhang et al. I found the article both interesting and insightful and believe that the readership of Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery would benefit from its publication. I would, therefore, recommend that the article be published with the following minor essential revisions:

1) In the Discussion section the paragraph beginning with, “Interestingly, in all reported…” and the paragraph beginning with, “Additionally, CT scan is…” should be deleted entirely, as they do not provide any additional useful information to the reader. Moreover, I would hope that any patient suspicious for an intrathoracic foreign body would receive a CT scan on admission to the hospital and/or in the preoperative planning phase. I do not believe that most surgeons would attempt to remove dislodged sternal struts from thorax without imaging and therefore I find these two paragraphs, which recommend the use of CT scans in such patients, superfluous.

2) The Acknowledgement section is unnecessary and should therefore be deleted.

Sincerely,

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Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest.