Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgical site infections following transcatheter apical aortic valve implantation: incidence and management.

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Reviewer: Buu-Khanh (B-K) Lam

Reviewer’s report:

Baillot et al have written a concise and pertinent report on surgical site infection following TA-TAVI. The manuscript was well structured and easy to read. I have a few questions to the authors that could help the readership better determine the risk of infection for these procedures:

1- Do you have any data that compares the time taken to complete the TAVI between the 2 groups?

2- What is the Cr clearance for each of the 2 groups and was there a difference? The proportion of patients with CRF may be different between the 2 groups but did this translate into their Cr clearance being significantly different?

3- You have presented advanced techniques of flaps coverage in the treatment of these infections but are they absolutely necessary or would simple debridement have been sufficient?

4- Could you please expand on the 3 patients who had infections and were all operated on the same day? Can you postulate as to a potential source of contamination?

5- Is the presence of pledgets a risk factor for SSI in these patients? Can you suggest alternatives?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

1- no
2- no
3- no
4- no
5- no

I declare that I have no competing interests