Reviewer's report

Title: Technical Aspects of Single-Port Thoracoscopic Surgery for Lobectomy

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2011

Reviewer: John A. Odell

Reviewer's report:

I am impressed what the authors have achieved through such small incisions.

My understanding, based on the provided heading, was that the authors were going to describe how to do a single-port lobectomy; that they were going to describe the technical aspects of the procedure. Unfortunately what we are provided basically is that three patients had single-port lobectomy. We are told what was accomplished, but not how the procedure was done. In the short abstract they state they will "discuss the key points of performing the procedure", but these key points are missing.

In my opinion, the authors need to provide more details of the procedures performed (where exactly the port was placed - not simply anteriorly; how were the vessels and bronchus controlled/ how was the fissure defined? how are lymph nodes removed. The paper may in fact be better submitted as a video paper concentrating on these technical aspects.

Cases one and two are very similar - they both had a left lower lobectomy. I am not certain, unless the authors are to provide new data, that both descriptions are necessary.

In my opinion, the authors need to provide more details of the procedures performed (where exactly the port was placed - not simply anteriorly; how were the vessels and bronchus controlled/ how was the fissure defined? how are lymph nodes removed. The paper may in fact be better submitted as a video paper concentrating on these technical aspects.

Midway through of the first case the description of what was done is confusing. A better timeline is necessary. For example "the wound was slightly extended to 3.5cm after resection, ..." Did the authors enlarge the incision to assist with the resection, or only for removal? I would have thought the former.

English is not the authors native language and some grammar changes are necessary. Two example of many: "once the port location is nearly impossible for resection, we need either extension to a larger wound or need another port wound. This is not what we expect for such procedure." "...division of fissue will be slightly difficult because the direction is too sharp to approach."

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests