Reviewer's report

Title: Mediastinoscope-Controlled Parasternal Fenestration of the Pericardium: Definitive Surgical Palliation of Malignant Pericardial Effusion

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2012

Reviewer: Thomas Kifer

Reviewer's report:

Good an interesting paper and method as an alternative. Survival rates do not interest as this is a surgical technique mainly used in a highly palliative setting so it would strongly recommend to shorten the manuscript concerning the survival rate. As alternative I would recommend to add - iff possible fotos from the intrapleural procedure.

I also recommend to eliminate the section "our only task is to operate". Surgeons shouldn't reduce themselves to mechanics!

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'