Reviewer’s report

Title: Recurrent pannus formation causing prosthetic aortic valve dysfunction: Is excision without valve re-replacement applicable?

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2012

Reviewer: IMAD TABRY

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revision: This is a very interesting if not daring review of a difficult subject. The article is very well written and I have no major revision to recommend.

My only comment pertains to the wisdom of operating and re-operating a total of 4 occasions on a 42 year old female for a prosthetic aortic valve malfunction which, more than likely, will recur with time. This patient is also committed to the use of anticoagulants of course.

I would suggest that if this patient lived in Europe or the US (but certainly not in Jerusalem) her last operation would have consisted of explantation of the St Jude prosthesis and replacement with a pericardial valve. The rationale being that, with the advent of TAVR (percutaneous, transapical, transaortic or transsubclavian artery aortic valve replacement) the biologic valve can be replaced "minimally invasively" (valve-in-valve) as the patient gets older and her valve becomes defective.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 of any sort presently, in the past or pending