Reviewer’s report

Title: Ruptured hemiarch and descending thoracic aorta aneurysm: hybrid treatment

Version: 1 Date: 29 February 2012

Reviewer: Tiziano Tallarita

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revision
1) The authors did not include important anatomical and clinical details:
   - proximal neck length and diameter,
   - distal landing zone diameter,
   - Aortic arch curvature,
   - carotido-carotido bypass (retropharyngeal course?),
   - renal function profile (pre-operative creatininemia, postoperative peak, and renal function follow up)
   - Local complications during the surgical part (nerve injury, hematoma,…)
   - Access issues during the endovascular part (small iliac artery diameter, tortuosity, severe calcification…)

2) In the discussion, the authors did not include the left subclavian artery management (to cover or not). Please address that and also cite the reference: “The Society for Vascular Surgery Practice Guidelines: Management of the left subclavian artery with thoracic endovascular aortic repair J Vasc Surg 2009;50:1155-8.”

3) In the discussion section, the authors should describe the technique of the endograft deployment (in particular blood pressure control). In fact, an important point is to decrease the systolic blood pressure during the deployment in order to get a more precise landing. Would be important for your manuscript to address that and quote “A novel approach using pulmonary artery catheter-directed rapid right ventricular pacing to facilitate precise deployment of endografts in the thoracic aorta. Ricotta JJ 2nd, Harbuzariu C, Pulido JN, Kalra M, Oderich G, Gloviczki P, Bower TC. J Vasc Surg. 2011 Nov 7.”, where the authors discuss a very interesting technique to lower the blood pressure in short time.

4) The authors should include a table with the technical details and outcomes of similar cases in order to improve the scientific value of the manuscript.

Minor essential revisions
1) Please avoid “didn’t” and use “did not” (Case report, 2nd and 6th paragraphs, Discussion 7th and 11th paragraphs,…etc…)

2) Please revise the following sentences:
“there were no endoleaks at the end of the procedure” in “there were no endoleaks at the completion angiography”. (Case report, 8th paragraph)
“perioperative diseases” in “perioperative complications” (Discussion, 6th paragraph)
“He was asymptomatic and all vital signs were right” in “Patient remained asymptomatic with the vital signs within the normal limits”. (Case report, 10th paragraph)
3) Please delete the following sentence:
“In literature we can’t find a lot of cases such this” (Conclusion, 1st paragraph)
“So” (Case report, 2nd paragraph)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.