Reviewer’s report

Title: Deep sternal wound infection after cardiac surgery

Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2013

Reviewer: Toshiya Ohtsuka

Reviewer’s report:

Authors compared the incidence of DSWI and mortalities in different heart procedures and concluded that more invasive procedures cause higher mortality of DSWI, and postoperative bleeding may deteriorate the mortality.

There are two questions.

1: Authors used the 30-day mortality data for results 1-6, but seem to have used longer in-hospital death data for result 7. Why? They should use the common database, otherwise confuse readers.

2: Copious postoperative bleeding alone would cause higher mortality because that complication damages more or less the patients’ hemodynamics and liver/kidney functions. Readers want to know if the reopening of the sternum leads to a higher incidence of DSWI (Very likely, Yes). “Secure hemostasis to prevent DSWI” may become a more beneficial message to surgeons than the use of VAC system.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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’