Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgical approach for the treatment of aortoesophageal fistula combined with dual aortic aneurysms: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 3 August 2013

Reviewer: Chris Klonaris

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. More technical details of the operation need to be given in order to consider this manuscript for publication.

2. To this point, the authors should provide intraoperative pictures or alternatively a schematic diagram of the operation they did? It would be easier for the reader to understand the whole procedure.

3. Which particular stent-graft was used?

4. Why did the authors choose to administer meropenem and only for 1 month? Long term even life-long antibiotic therapy is to my knowledge appropriate for such cases.

5. The authors state that stent-graft placement is associated with high risk of spinal cord ischemia, blood leaks, stenosis and thrombosis. This is inaccurate. Stent grafting of the thoracic aorta appears to be much less complicated than open surgery and this needs to be addressed by the authors. Paraplegia rates for example are usually greater after opens surgery compared to endovascular stent-grafting.

6. The authors state at the conclusion that the patient received adequate antibiotic therapy. This is obviously not true since the patient received antibiotics only for 1 month and finally died due to infection causing aneurysm rupture.

7. This manuscript needs careful English language editing.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors should better describe the anatomical location of both aneurysms. ‘Aortic arch aneurysm’ and ‘descending aneurysm’ do not represent competent descriptions for a published case report.

2. Second paragraph of the section ‘Background’: What do the authors mean by ‘complete antibiotic dose?’

3. ‘Case presentation’ section: What do the authors mean by the phrase ‘the femoral artery was isolated’? Which femoral artery (right, left or both?)

4. ‘Case presentation section’ What do the authors mean with ‘active emergency
treatments?’

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests