Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Improving long term outcome for diabetic patients undergoing surgical revascularization by use of the radial artery conduit: a propensity matched study.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 September 2012

**Reviewer:** Vinay Tak

**Reviewer’s report:**

Article vocalizes an important issue regarding Primary Revascularization in Diabetics. This strategy is recognized as beneficial by most surgeons in practice but is being presented with hard supportive data.

The study though retrospective is well organized, with good strength, and the propensity matching is well balanced.

The group reporting the data is a well balanced and consistent group with good surgical technique eliminating technical bias.

Exclusion criteria are well justified and it is evident that patients not receiving RA grafts are a separate subset of the population.

The survival data speak clearly in favor of advantages with the appropriate use of RA grafts to the Left coronary system avoiding the sternal complications with Bilateral IMA use.

As such in my opinion no major or minor revision is required. The tabular data is well laid out and captioned.

The publication of this data with its implications may increase the use of the RA graft universally to an extent where a prospective study may be planned to further validate the class of evidence.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.