Author's response to reviews

Title: Rupture of Heterologous Pericardial Patch after Aortic Annulus Enlargement

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript entitled "Rupture of Heterologous Pericardial Patch after Aortic Annulus Enlargement", which we would like to submit for publication as a case report in The Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery. We revised according to the advices given by Reviewers and Associate Editors, which have helped us to improve our manuscript. No part of this paper has been published nor is under consideration for publication elsewhere. All subjects gave written informed consent.

We experienced the case that developed a rupture of equine pericardial patch after aortic annulus enlargement. Rupture of a heterologous pericardial patch after aortic annulus enlargement has not been reported. Our patient had been treated in the past with aortic valve replacement and annulus enlargement for valve stenosis and with replacement of the ascending aorta for dissection. At surgery, a tear in an equine pericardial patch was noted at the aortic root. Under moderate hypothermia with balloon occlusion of the ascending aorta, the patient underwent pseudoaneurysm excision and repair of the aortic root using a double-layered, Hemashield-reinforced bovine pericardial patch. This was a rare case of rupture of an equine pericardial patch after aortic annulus enlargement that was successfully treated using a double-layered bovine pericardial/Hemashield patch.

All the authors have approved the manuscript and this submission. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare. There is no ethical problem in this manuscript. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript, which we hope is now in a suitable form for publication in The Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery. If further revisions are necessary, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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