Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Eradication of a chronic wound and driveline infection after redo-LVAD implantation

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 December 2013

**Reviewer:** Nizar N Yonan

**Reviewer’s report:**

The reviewers have read the report entitled “Eradication of a chronic wound and driveline infection after redo LVAD implantation by Dr. Walter et al. with interest.

In this case report the authors try demonstrate that in an infected LVAD, the administration of Daptomycin and surgical treatment seems to be sufficient and effective. To date, there are only a few details concerning optimal management of LVAD-related infections in literature.

Minor revisions, can we have clarification on the following please::

1. What was the reason behind device failure (HM II)? Was it subtherapeutic anticoagulation?, Why then HeartWare?
2. Please provide a comment regarding bridging? Is it to transplantation?
3. In the case report section it was mentioned that swabs during the hospitalization were free of bacterial growth. Was the patient on antibiotic therapy at the time? Please comment.

Major revisions:

1. It is unclear why the patient was not put on the Urgent List (HU-Status) for heart transplantation when the LVAD was infected. An LVAD infection is the classical indication for high urgency transplantation. Please comment
2. The discussion section can be improved. e.g. The most feared infective complication is LVAD endocarditis
3. The authors should be aware of re-infection, especially when the antibiotic therapy is stopped and the patient is at home. Do they have a follow-up strategy in the follow-up? Need to be discussed
4. It is important to comment on whether the Velour around the exit line was left within the subcutaneous tissue or partly exteriorized at the time of VAD implantation, what is their policy on that? Also did they try to strip the Velour from the exit cable at the time of wound debridement and the start of VAC therapy?
5. What would they recommend if the patient was re-admitted with recurrence? Is there a role for prolonged antibiotic therapy?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests