Reviewer's report

Title: Case report: Missed case of sinus venosus atrial septal defect post coronary artery bypass grafting

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Reviewer: henryk kafka

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The case of a missed sinus venosus defect leading to intractable heart failure after massive MI and CABG is an interesting one but this case report is not well written and misses the most important aspects of the case. I really do not think the problem here is a surgical one but a failure to adequately manage this patient pre- and peri-operatively.

A sinus venosus defect (SVD) is quite different from a secundum ASD, which can be usually detected by transthoracic echo. Furthermore, SVD has been missed on TEE. One has to suspect SVD and go looking for it. This report does not convince me that routine TEE would have prevented the situation described in this report. The focus of discussion should be on SVD and not at all on ASD. Reference 3 is not relevant.

The MRI image is not particularly good at demonstrating the SVD.

The surgical procedure is described twice on page 4. Pre-op LVEF had been 12% but post-op, it was 30%. No explanation is provided as to why reduction of left to right shunt would improve LVEF.

This is a case of failure to fully evaluate a patient with post-operative complications. In my experience, the patient with post-op ascites and peripheral edema frequently has pericardial constriction which is missed because no one thinks about that diagnosis. This report would have been better if it had focused on how to diagnose and manage right heart failure post-operatively.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests of any sort.