Reviewer’s report

Title: Paradoxical embolism following thromboaspiration of arteriovenous fistula thrombosis

Version: 1 Date: 4 July 2010

Reviewer: Umberto Baldini

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The Authors describe a case of a 50-year-old woman who received a renal graft. Thrombosis of the AV fistula occurred two weeks after transplantation and was treated by thromboaspiration. The procedure was partially successful but during a hemodialysis session immediately following thromboaspiration, severe cerebrovascular complications occurred.

Transesophageal echocardiography revealed the presence of a patent foramen ovale (PFO) with a left-to-right shunt strongly suggesting that neurological event could be caused by parodixical brain embolization resulting from the inversion of the shunt.

The case report is quite interesting and well written, images are clear.

The only limit of this case report is the lack of a direct documentation of a
right-to-left shunt through the PFO by contrast or microbubble transesophageal echocardiography.

Quality of written English: Acceptable