Author's response to reviews

Title: Solitary metastatic adenocarcinoma of the sternum treated by total sternectomy and chest wall reconstruction using a Goretex pach and myocutaneous flap: a case report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

After taking into consideration the comments of the referees we submit our revised manuscript providing at the same time a point to point response to the concerns of the referees.

**Reviewer: Dimitrios Dougenis Dr med. PhD Dr. FETCS**

1. Pathology revealed a poorly differentiated invasive carcinoma infiltrating the sternum with involvement of the pericardium. Margins were clear and immunohistochemistry was negative.

2. There was enough skin left and we didn’t use any kind of skin graft

3. We provided two additional photos: one illustrating the immediate closure of the defect with the Gore-Tex mesh (V) and another one illustrating the immediate closure of the skin after the end of the procedure (VI). Unfortunately we have no photos demonstrating the mobilized serratus anterior muscle.

**Reviewer: Dr. Apostolou Konstantinos**
1. Emphasis was given on the surgical details of the flap elevation and defect coverage and on the literature recommendations regarding the indications of serratus anterior muscle use.

2. All the comments made from Dr. Apostolou regarding the Quality of written English were taken into considerations and the necessary changes were made.

3. We provided two additional photos: one illustrating the immediate closure of the defect with the Gore-Tex mesh (V) and another one illustrating the immediate closure of the skin after the end of the procedure (VI). Unfortunately we have no photos demonstrating the mobilized serratus anterior muscle.

4. The precise procedure was described and scapular winging occurred although any effort was made to preserve the 1/3 lower part of the serratus anterior muscle.

5. The data on survival following the procedure, from these case series was provided


We consider the help of the reviewers very important in order to bring forward our modified manuscript.

We would like to thank you in advance for the opportunity we were given to re-evaluate our work and we are looking forward hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Stavros I. Daliakopoulos