Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 6 Date: 12 January 2009

Reviewer: dimitrios Dr. med. PhD, FETCS dougenis

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

If other, please specify:

This CR describes a rare presentation of metastatic disease (solitary sternal metastasis) and most importantly underlines and emphasise the need for radical treatment. Finally, it describes the the use of this surgical technique that has been very raraly apllied.

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?: Yes

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?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

1. The authors do not state whether or not the pericardium was in fact involved by tumour histologically. This is important because most often these tumours do not infiltrate the pericardium which can be left intact.
2. The authors do not specify whether the skin left was enough to cover the defect or a free skin graft was also used in addition.

3. The operative picture (fig 3) is a nice one but does not provide additional information comparing to CTs (fig 1,2). It could have been better if a picture of the mobilized serratus anterior muscle graft was provided and illustrated here, so we could confirm the procedure.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'