Reviewer's report

Title: Retained drains causing a bronchoperitoneal fistula: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2010

Reviewer: Vittorio Antonaglia

Comments to authors:

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

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, lung laceration has to be depicted by CT

Is this case worth reporting? - Yes

Is the case report persuasive? - Not completely, because values of gas exchange, responses to recruitment maneuvers and PEEP were not reported

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

In my opinion, in this case report the more important topic is the use of HFOV to treat the lung mechanics and gas exchange impairment. The authors have to explain the rationale for the use of HFOV in this lung laceration. For this they can present lung CT giving further evidence of a lung laceration as a peripheral or central airway lesion. In a peripheral airway lesion high frequency ventilation was theoretically not indicated. Moreover the reasons because bronchoscopy occluding therapies were precluded. The authors have to present the data of leak during conventional ventilation with four thoracostomy tubes and during the other ventilatory setting.

Given your assessment of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step? - Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English - Acceptable
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests