Reviewer's report

Title: Hybrid management of a spontaneous ileo-iliac arteriovenous fistula.

Version: 1 Date: 6 April 2011

Reviewer: Patrick Fon Sen Chong

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?: 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?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Your title should use the spelling "Ilio-iliac" which is conventional.

Please make it clear whether your patient is 68 years old (abstract) or sixty year old in your main case report.

Your patient was treated with an aorto-uni-iliac device due to the 19mm aortic bifurcation diameter. This was stated as the reason why an aorto-uni-iliac device was chosen. An alternative option of a totally endovascular approach that would have avoided a femoral to femoral crossover bypass would be to utilize a device with anatomical fixation - the Le Maitre Endologix Powerlink System device which will negotiate an aortic bifurcation diameter >18mm.(Ref: Carpenter et al. JVS 2004 and Wang et al. 2008). In the absence of the extreme right common iliac artery aneurysmal changes in your patient, an Endologix Powerlink System
device may have been a better option despite the 19mm aortic bifurcation diameter. It must be noted that the Endologix Powerlink System device has been used in the setting on common iliac aneurysms extending to the iliac bifurcation before. (Albertini et al. Ann Vasc Surg 2010). Please consider revising your discussion to include this option.

Your case report is relevant and adds to the small body of published cases about endovascular treatment of arteriovenous fistula. You should also list this reference in your report. The authors describe endovascular exclusion of an ilio-iliac arteriovenous fistula using a Gore Excluder endograft in the Ann Vasc Surg. 2010 May;24(4):551.e13-7. Epub 2010 Feb 9."Bifurcated endograft repair of ilio-iliac arteriovenous fistula secondary to lumbar disectomy". Sarmiento JM, Wisniewski PJ, Do NT, Vo TD, Aka PK, Tayyarah M, Hsu JH.

Smaller, more clearly defined peripheral arteriovenous fistulas on imaging have also been treated successfully using an endovascular approach using Amplatzer plug devices.(Park et al. J Vasc Int Radiol 2010).

References quoted:
Aneurysmal extension to the iliac bifurcation increases the risk of complications and secondary procedures after endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms.
Endovascular therapy of a traumatic chronic popliteal arteriovenous fistula using an AMPLATZER vascular plug.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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