Reviewer's report

Title: Delayed constrictive pericarditis, blunt trauma as a suspected cause: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2010

Reviewer: Martin Strueber

Which of the 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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Constrictive pericarditis still is a challenge both in diagnostics and treatment. First of all the authors are to be congratulated on the beneficial outcome of their case. However, it needs to be stated that pericarditis seems to be an underestimated disease. Like in this case, medical treatment given without the proper diagnosis may lead not only to prolonged suffering but also to irreversible secondary organ failure, when surgical intervention is postponed.

This is a great case report reminding physicians to think about constrictive pericarditis in an unclear case of congestive heart disease.

Blunt trauma is not a classical condition to develop pericarditis, but given intraoperative findings, this seems to be the likely explanation.

The clinical improvement is clearly attributed to the resection of the pericardium
although the procedure was combined with a coronary revascularisation.
In summary this is a well written report of high interest to many physicians and surgeons.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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