Reviewer's report

Title: ROTEM and Multiplate in four patients with abnormal routine coagulation studies before withdrawal of epidural catheters after major surgery: a case series.

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2013

Reviewer: Simon J Davidson

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: None

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This case study investigates the use of POCT devices (Multiplate and Rotem) in patients requiring removal of epidural catheter removal and if they add any benefit when compared to standard laboratory assays and the patients risk of bleeding.

Comments.

1. The abstract needs to be re-written with data incorporated into the results section to make it understandable.

2. In the introduction second paragraph the use of pre operative coagulation screening and post operative risk of bleeding should be referenced e.g. the
BCSH guideline - Guidelines on the assessment of bleeding risk prior to surgery or invasive procedures 2008.

3. Introduction - I am not clear what 'normal bleeding history' is?

4. The results really need to be presented more clearly.

5. Normal ranges should be included for the lab tests PT, APTT etc and Multiplate, Rotem.

6. I don't feel the four case reports really show case the utility of the POCT to their fullest. These could be re-written.

7. There were a number of assay failures in the Rotem - what was this due to? Operator error or faulty device or reagents.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests