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: James Paul Johnston

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:
Peri-operative investigation

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?: No

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Blood was sampled from indwelling lines was there contamination with anything that may have altered coagulation profile. Sampling from indwelling catheters not routine in UK, arterial lines in HDU/ICU.

If withdrawing from a central line the dead space volume x5 should be removed prior to taking a sample to avoid contamination.

Why not also compare pre and post op point of care testing?
I am not sure the association of platelet count and length of time following surgery is reliable without comparison to the pre-op platelet counts.

Abbreviations used without explanation eg. COL, TRAP.

This case report also highlights the error rate with point of care testing in this case in the order of 13% which would seem high and make results for these techniques unreliable. Error rates would be higher in a unit that rarely used this technology. The availability of such techniques in UK largely restricted to cardiac surgical units. So context of potential change to practice limited. Please discuss.

There is an assumption of inflammatory response was there any measure of an inflammatory response such as crp?

Perhaps an explanation of the techniques would be useful to add educational value to the case report.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.