Reviewer’s report

Title: Sigmoid to Scrotal Fistula Secondary to Mesh Erosion: A Rare Complication of Inguinal Hernia Repair in a Patient on Anticoagulation

Version: 2

Date: 28 April 2015

Reviewer: Dimitrios Symeonidis

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory revisions
In the present paper the authors present a rare, to my experience as well, case of mesh related septic complication of TAPP repair. However, I have a few comments to make:

1. I would like to know a few more things regarding the initial TAPP repair. Were there any particular difficulties encountered? What was the appearance of the sigmoid colon during the initial laparoscopy?

2. The authors treated what appeared to be a necrotizing scrotal infection with incision and drainage. CT revealed the presence of a foreign body as well within the abscess cavity. However, the author at the fear of bleeding deferred the removal of the foreign body. Furthermore, they tried to put it back in place. I don’t clearly know if that was the proper decision to be made. Deciding not to remove an infected foreign body in a septic patient requiring ICU support is not to my opinion an optimal local control of sepsis

3. Despite the fact that the source of the infection was adequately identified i.e. a hole in the sigmoid colon resulting in a large intra-abdominal abscess expanding in the scrotum through the inguinal canal, the authors did nothing to drain this abscess adequately. I do not believe that intra-abdominal sepsis can be adequately addressed via a scrotal incision. I do believe that rare clinical problems require rare solutions. However, the authors have not supported their approach appropriately within the paper.

4. I would also describe the final decision in regards to the colonic repair as risky. Was there a bowel prep done? What was the appearance of the bowel wall?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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