Reviewer’s report

Title: An Association of Spleen Volume and Aortic Diameter in Patients and in Mice with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Version: 0 Date: 30 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Aly Ghoneim

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to congratulate the authors for their well conducted and interesting study (An Association of Spleen Volume and Aortic Diameter in Patients and in Mice with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.)

I do agree with the authors about the importance of identifying other morphological indices that serve as predictors of the risk of rupture in AAA. The manuscript is well-written, easy to follow and exploring an interesting question about the presence of an association between the increase in size of spleen coexisting with AAA. Indeed, it arises the questions; if this can be useful in the future and if it can be used as a predictor of an increase in the inflammatory reactions co-existing with an increased risk of AAA rupture.

However, I would like to address the following important points:

1. Why is the control group in the study significantly younger then the study group?
2. What was the selection criteria of the control group?
3. Why the splenic volumes were not indexed?
4. Why the wide range of age (50-80)? A range of 10 years' difference would have made both groups more comparable.
5. How can a 28 days' laboratory experiment with inflammatory induced changes mimic the natural inflammatory process causing the main pathology in human?
6. What are the chances that the splenic enlargement is a temporary reaction to the induced inflammation?
7. Were there any splenic volumes followed on a longer duration in the study group? If yes, were there any decrease in volumes later on?
8. Is there any data about an associated thrombocytopenia concomitant with the increase in splenic volumes?
Thank you for the privilege of reviewing such an excellent work.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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