Reviewer’s report

Title: Subxiphoid vs transthoracic approach thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax: a propensity score-matched analysis

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Reviewer: Marien Lenoir

Reviewer's report:

In their manuscript the authors aimed to describe the subxiphoid vs transthoracic approach thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax: a propensity score matched analysis. They have concluded that although transthoracic thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax is well established, uniportal subxiphoid thoracoscopic surgery may provide an alternative surgical technique for patients with spontaneous pneumothorax in selected cases.

I have read with great interest the article presented by the authors. However, several limitations of current study exist.

On the whole it misses a lot of data.

* Preoperative data such as weight, height, smoking, pulmonary risk factors (asthma).

* For the technical technical: there is a lack of data on the equipment used. Pictures to show the installation would be interesting.

* For the results:

There is no consideration of postoperative pain.

After matching, there is one woman for 31 men. it seems difficult to generalize the method for both sexes.

There is no information on postoperative complications (stoke, bleeding etc).

* For the discussion:

In the literature there is already an article that evaluted of the same subject

Thoracoscopic surgery via a single-incision subxiphoid approach is associated with less postoperative pain than single-incision transthoracic or three-incision transthoracic spontaneous pneumothorax

I do not understand your conclusion: in the subxiphoid approach group, there is more operative bleeding, there is a longer operative duration, and especially there is more serious complication arrhythmia 1 patients / 3 for zero in the other group. With these major difference you conclude that it is a safe technique.

I think that the subxiphoid approach should be proposed only to bilateral pneumothorax.

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

No

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.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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