Reviewer's report

Title: Surgical management of mitral valve infective endocarditis with annular abscess and calcification in the setting of a leaking mycotic infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm: a case report.

Version: 2  Date: 13 April 2014

Reviewer: Yasuyuki Bito

Reviewer's report:

This case report would have some important information for a difficult clinical situation. However, several points should be clarified in detail for its publication.

1. For figure 1, please show the arrow in the picture to clarify the lesion, and you should make precise accordance of the alphabet headings between legends and pictures. Moreover, in its legend, the word “CT 3D reconstruction” should be changed to “volume-rendered reconstruction of CT.”

2. For figure 2, please do not use incorrect term and abbreviations in its legends such as “echo.” In addition, it is difficult to identify the particular structures in each picture. Please indicate cardiac chambers, leaflets, and the vegetation.

3. For figure 3, it would be worthless because it is too small to see.

4. Please describe more about the intra-operative finding and operative procedure, especially for the abdominal aneurysm. You use the word “leaking aneurysm,” though it would be unclear about the actual state of it from your description.

5. As you already described in your manuscript, the timing of the operation after the cerebral infarction is controversial. In your discussion, you recommend the early operation after several embolisms. However, you should also mention the risk of intra-operative cerebral hemorrhage at the early operation after cerebral infarction.

6. You should also declare clearly each abbreviation at the first appearance in your manuscript for the other words; “MRI,” “CT,” “AAA” and so on.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.