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: 10 May 2014

Reviewer: Nestoras Papadopoulos

Reviewer's report:

First of all I would like to congratulate authors for this well written case report and their excellent results following initial surgical treatment of a leaking abdominal aortic aneurysm and subsequent decalcification and patch reconstruction of mitral annulus in a seventy four year old patient presenting with a leaking mycotic infrarenal aortic aneurysm and a perivalvular abscess of a calcified mitral annulus.

Here same points, which my help improving the quality of the manuscript:

1. The abbreviation MAC (mitral annulus calcification) can be avoided, once it doesn’t appear for a second time in the manuscript.
2. Abbreviations such as AAA, CT and MRI must be written out before their first appearance in the manuscript.
3. Please provide some more details regarding canulation, cardioplegia (antegrade, retrograde or both) and blood temperature during extracorporeal circulation.
4. Which surgical access (transeptal, interatrial, roof of left atrium) has been applied for the exposure of the mitral valve.
5. Please provide more details regarding the extension of the mitral annulus calcification (posterior, anterior annulus, circumferential, subvalvular apparatus) as well as the exact description of the annuloplasty ring, which has been used.
6. Can you please provide some echocardiographic data of the postoperative evaluation of the mitral valve (e.g. EOA and transvalvular gradient).
7. In my hand the quality of figure 2b, 2c and 3a is not good enough for publication and should be removed. A magnification of the figure 3b could be helpful.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests