Reviewer's report

**Title:** An ex-vivo quantitative assessment to determine the optimal aortotomy closure technique

**Version:** 2
**Date:** 9 May 2015

**Reviewer:** Yutaka Okita

**Reviewer's report:**

The revised manuscript did not clear my concerns. The leakage amount is not solely determined by the suture line itself. Bleeding is coming from suture holes, loosened suture line, or characteristics of the contact surface of the aorta. There was no data regarding mechanical properties, such as horizontal or longitudinal tensile strength of the suture line.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

no conflict of interest