Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 17 May 2015

**Reviewer:** Korah Oommen

**Reviewer’s report:**

I haven't noted any areas for revision

This appears to be a well defined and well conducted study to answer a specific question, which it answers admirably. The statistics are rather esoteric for me to understand but the tables and diagrams are well designed and easy to understand, except for Table 1 (but that is because I don't understand the stats). The conclusions reached are valid and does confirm anecdotal experience and general consensus. However though I don't think the paper will change practice, as surgeons will continue to use their preferred technique for aortotomy closure.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest