Reviewer’s report

Title: Ascending aortic aneurysm repair and surgical ablation for atrial fibrillation

Version: 2 Date: 3 June 2015

Reviewer: Giovanni Melina

Reviewer’s report:

The Authors describe their experience of surgical atrial fibrillation ablation in the context of ascending aneurism repair. They conclude that AF ablation is safe and sinus rhythm restoration improves survival in this setting.

I’m afraid that the retrospective nature of the study makes it difficult to analyze this series of patients. In addition the heterogeneous surgical procedures performed in such a population cannot be compared in a proper manner. Secondly, the statistical analysis performed doesn’t give any answer to the investigated end-point and therefore it is not possible to conclude that AF ablation and/or sinus rhythm restoration positively affect late survival following surgery.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests