Reviewer’s report

Title: Case report: Cardiac Herniation following Robotic-Assisted Thymectomy

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Mohammad Rahnavardi

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Espey and colleagues reported a case of cardiac herniation following robotic thymectomy through a 4x4cm defect in the pericardium.

Although cardiac herniation is a known complication of intrapericardial pneumonectomy, the current report of herniation shortly after a thymectomy involving pericardial resection is interesting and will be worthy of publication. The report is generally well written.

The case is well presented and the intraoperative photo provided is useful. The discussion is a good summary of the literature and emphasis on potential role of CO2 release in causing herniation is worthy of extra emphasis;

Recommendation:
1. a word of caution to surgeons to continue inspecting the heart in cases that pericardial defect was not primarily repaired while CO2 is turned off and the intrathoracic pressure changes from positive to negative can be helpful.

2. Minor point: page 6, line 20, 'A 28Fr chest was placed...' should read 'A 28Fr chest drain was placed...'
3. Suggest change of wording from 'bumped' position to semi-lateral or similar term

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

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