Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Fibrin glue on an aortic cusp detected by transesophageal echocardiography after valve-sparing aortic valve replacement: a case report

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**Version:** 3  
**Date:** 28 December 2014

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Responses to Reviewers

Reviewer's report
Title: Fibrin glue on an aortic cusp detected by transesophageal echocardiography after valve-sparing aortic valve replacement: a case report
Version: 2
Date: 25 October 2014
Reviewer: Sotiria Mastoraki
Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: None
If other, please specify:
This paper describes an interesting case of controlling a leak at the anastomosis site probably due to needle holes.
Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes
Is the case report authentic?: Yes
Is the case report ethical?: Yes
Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes
Is this case worth reporting?: Yes
Is the case report persuasive?: Yes
Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes
Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No
Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes
Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:
This paper describes an interesting case of controlling a leak at the anastomosis site probably due to needle holes. I wonder if the writers can give us some more information about the type of anastomosis and the type of sutures which were used.
Thank you for your comments. Please see page 3, para 2, lines 4–9: Mattress sutures with 2-0 Ethibond® (Ethicon, Somerville, NJ, USA) and 4-0 Prolene® (Ethicon) were used for plication of the commissures of the aortic cusps. 6-0
Prolene was used for central plication of the cusps. Mattress sutures with 4-0 Prolene were used for the edge of the artificial aortic graft. The anastomoses between the patient’s Valsalva sinuses and the graft as well as the coronary arteries and the graft were closed with over-and-over 4-0 Prolene sutures (the latter with felt).

Moreover, I would like to have an answer to the following questions:
1. How many units of blood cells were transfused during the operation?
   Please see p. 4, lines 5–7: During the operation we transfused 400 ml of autologous blood that had been stored preoperatively, 4 units (560 ml) of packed red blood cells, 8 units (960 ml) of fresh frozen plasma, 20 units (400 ml) of platelets, and 500 ml of 5% albumin.

2. How was the range of ACT during the operation?
   Preoperative ACT was 121 sec. After 17,500 units of heparin was administered, his ACT was 452 sec. After administration of a total of 24 mg of protamine, ACT was 133 sec. and this is the final ACT examination.

3. The application of glues can though be associated with significant risk in cardiothoracic surgery, namely severe local inflammation and aortic pseudoaneurysm at the anastomotic site. I wonder if there is any follow up for this patient because these patients need for meticulous judgment of the use of biologic glues with close follow-up.
   Please see p.4, para 2, lines 2 and 3.: At his 3-month follow-up, echocardiography and CT scans were obtained. He showed neither inflammation nor pseudoaneurysm at the anastomotic site.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
Reviewer's report

**Title:** Fibrin glue on an aortic cusp detected by transesophageal echocardiography after valve-sparing aortic valve replacement: a case report

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 11 November 2014  
**Reviewer:** Nick Zavras

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

**Comments to authors:**

It is an interesting case-report.

There are no responses to the reviewer. We thank the reviewer for these constructive comments.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.