Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of a porcine dermal collagen (PermacolTM) implant for contaminated abdominal wall reconstruction in a 105-year-old patient: A case Report and literature review.

Version: 4 Date: 17 October 2014

Reviewer: Gopal Kowdley

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

This paper does not report on a new idea or concept - rather it reports on the oldest patient who has received Permacol as an agent for repairing an eviceration.

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

I commend the authors on a nicely written report and have a few questions:

1) How was the skin closure handled after the second operation as there is mention of prolene closure but a few days later the wound was mentioned as being closed again. This should be clarified.
2) There was no clear reason for why the authors think the dehiscence occurred. If this were due to a complete suture line disruption - were there technique failures that lead to the process or was this from an underlying infection with necrosis? There appears to be no purulence or other finding to suggest infection as a primary failure source. Technique is usually the major reason for dehiscence this close to a surgical procedure.

3) If the necrotic edges were due to infection - why would the authors not consider other methods such as lateral release etc..to gain more tissue for closure as an alternative to mesh?

4) Why do the authors propose that this was a contaminated field? Were there culture results that would support this claim?

5) The statement about this being applied to the geriatric patient population must be considered in the light of better perioperative care and pre operative preparation which is making surgery on the elderly far safer than in the past.

6) Was this mesh required at all? As the authors had brought the fascia together and then placed the mesh in an onlay position - was there any bridging performed?

Thank you for your the ability to review your manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'