Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of rivaroxaban in an elderly patient with intermediate-low early mortality risk due to pulmonary embolism: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 29 October 2015

Reviewer: John Spurzem

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: None

If other, please specify:

The report is an example of a relatively new use of a medication.

Do you believe the case report is authentic?:

Yes, the case is authentic to the type of clinical situation that many clinicians face. Many clinicians are faced with treating VTE and PE. Many are wondering how and when they should use the newer oral anticoagulants. This report gives a nice review of the issues involved in treating PE. The report also gives a nice review of the risk assessment of PE and deciding how to treat.

Do you have any ethical concerns?:

No ethical concerns

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?:

Yes, the abstract is good.

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?:

yes

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes

Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: Yes

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes
Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes

If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.: no missing information

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?: Yes

Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?: I think some clinicians will find the report helpful, they may get reassurance and be more inclined to use rivaroxaban. In addition, the case report gives follow up laboratory and radiology findings that some clinicians will find helpful.

the use of rivaroxaban in this situation is not novel since it is approved for this use in most countries that I am aware. This reduces the novelty of the report, but unlike large studies this report gives detail regarding a specific case and could be helpful teaching material.

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Additional comments to authors?: Table 2 appears to be a repeat of Table 1 (PESI score). I would either delete Table 2 or change it somehow. I think it can be deleted.

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