Reviewer’s report

Title: LAPAROSCOPIC REPAIR ON VESICOVAGINAL FISTULAE WITH THE TRANSPERITONEAL APPROACH: THE INITIAL CASE REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA UROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Version: 1 Date: 12 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Stilianos Giannakopoulos

Reviewer’s report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments: No

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

   a. The relevant patient information, including:

      - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)
      - Main symptoms of the patient
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

   b. The relevant physical examination findings

   c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider
including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at \( T = 0 \), follow up at \( T = 1 \) month.

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:

- Diagnostic methods
- Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
- Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments: no comment

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: Needs clarifications

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: yes

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments: yes

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

The authors report the case of a vesicovaginal fistula (VVF), which was treated with a laparoscopic transabdominal approach. Although laparoscopic surgery for VVF, has been in use for several years the authors present a modified technique with two main points: 1) a small cystotomy and 2) not closure of the vaginal defect. Instead, omentum is interposed between the bladder and the vagina. Although, personally I would not dare to leave the vaginal defect open, their modification seems interesting and saves time. Of course, one should be cautious before adopting this technique, because the successful outcome of one single case does not guarantee
success in every case. Obviously more cases are needed to verify the efficacy of this modification.

After review I have the following comments:

1. In the section "Surgical technique" you mention that "The ureteral stents were removed without difficulty". When were these stents placed? Have you inserted them at the outset of the procedure or a few days before surgery?

2. One of the main points of your technique is that the vaginal defect was not closed separately. Yet in the legend of figure 3 you describe the closure of the vaginal opening in a horizontal fashion with a braided suture. Please explain.

3. Interposition of the omentum is not always feasible in these cases. Occasionally the omentum is either too short or adherent to the bowel and cannot reach the fistula site. Please comment.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal