

Januar 22, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript No. 6884 - Review).

**Title:** Elective Thoracotomy for Pedicle Screw Removal to prevent severe aortic bleeding

**Author:** Decker, Sebastian; Omar, Mohamed; Krettek, Christian; Müller, Christian W.

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6884

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

Reviewer 01259882:

- Unfortunately studies that compare the different techniques available to protect the aorta are missing to our knowledge.
- To the authors' mind the introduction's aim is to introduce the topic, which is done, and to segue into the main part.
- Comments as to the case report have been included.
- As references are cited in the introduction we did not cite them again in the conclusion section to avoid rehashing.
- The aim has been specified in the conclusion section.
- You raise the question about imaging modalities. We of course discussed this with our radiologist. They did recommend the ultrasound as described. We did not think that fluoroscopy did help in this situation.
- The time that the patient spent on our intensive care unit was included.

Reviewer 00503204:

- The section was specified. Unfortunately this patient was monitored by a resident physician for routine controls.

Reviewer 00289548:

- A VATs approach was discussed, however performing surgeons decided that they felt that the thoracotomy would be much safer. This of course is a decision that can be discussed a lot. Therefore I stated in the conclusion that it is kind of a decision on a by-case basis.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

4 English grammar was corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Clinical Cases*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "S. Decker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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