

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment: The authors review the current applications of U-RATS and its initial results, complications, and safety. We believe that U-RATS will become more widely used in the future.

The da Vinci Xi using a multi-arm system is concerned with instrument collision, but satisfactory results can be obtained by excluding one arm and using more assistant support. The Single-arm Platform has been used for subxiphoid or subcostal approaches, and the initial results have been satisfactory.

The content of this paper is interesting, accurate, complete, and worthy of acceptance. In line 205 of page 7, I could not understand the meaning of “once cm”. What does this mean?

Reply: We thank the reviewer for his comment. We apologize for this typo which has been corrected in the revised manuscript to be ‘the incision was placed one cm lateral to the xiphoid’.

Change in text: “once” changed to “one” in line 237, page 8.

Reviewer B

Comment: Well written review of an interesting subject that will potentially have a great impact in future RATS surgery.

Reply: We thank the reviewer for his review and comments.

Change in text: None

Reviewer C

Comment: I consider the paper quite interesting. Could you add information about the use of staplers in Single Port da Vinci System?

Typing mistake in line 182: COASTAL vs COSTAL.

Reply: Thank you for your review. We have corrected the typo error (line 174).

According to the current literature the da Vinci SP system does not have a stapler, and requires the aid of an assistant to place staples separately.

Change in text: Changed to line 205-206.

Reviewer D

Comment: I read with interests the manuscript entitled Uni-portal Robotic-Assisted Thoracic surgery: current applications and future perspectives.

The article is well written, the aim is clear and the literature review is satisfactory even if the english language may benefit from minor revision for better clarity. The authors simply perform a literature review without a real discussion on current applications, limitations or future perspectives and this aspect needs improvement.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for his thorough review of our manuscript. We added sections on current applications, limitations, and future perspectives.

Changes made: Page 10

Comment: In my opinion The "single arm platform" section can be incorporated with subcostal and subxiphoid Da vinci SP U-RATS sections. In fact adding 2 different other sections to describe the same article may be misleading. Moreover, it is not clear if the ref 22 is the only reported clinical use of Da vinci SP tool as the authors just stated that it is the first. Please add other reports if available or clarify.

Answer:

- We merged the sub-costal and sub-xiphoid sections to the SP U-RATS section as recommended.
- At the time of our initial submission, reference 22 was the only study we could find on that topic. However, during the AATS annual meeting last month, two abstracts were presented on the same topic and we included some of the data from those abstracts.

Changes made:

-Sub-xiphoid and sub-costal sections have been merged in section 'Single-arm Platform'

- New studies added for SP U-RATS, line 256-265, Page 9.

Comment: Moreover, considering the initial experience with U-RATS, a summary table with the reported cases could increase the quality of your review.

Answer: A summary table with the reported cases was added to the manuscript.

Changes made: Table 1

Comment: Finally, even if it is not a systematic review, I believe that the manuscript would benefit from more methodology details such as the research strategy, number of included articles, selection and exclusion criteria etc.

Answer: We added a structured methodology section in the manuscript.

Changes made: Methodology: page 4