Reviewer's report

Title: Design and Organization of the Dexamethasone, Light Anesthesia and Tight Glucose Control (DeLiT) Trial: A Factorial Trial Evaluating the Effects of Corticosteroids, Glucose Control, and Depth-of-Anesthesia on Perioperative Inflammation and Morbidity From Major Non-cardiac Surgery

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Reviewer: Leopold Eberhart

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well designed protocol addressing clinical meaningful endpoints. The authors use a factorial design to study three distinct interventions that are of high clinical relevance since they can be used by every clinician in daily practise: administration of a corticosteroid (here: 8 mg dexamethasone) appropriate anaesthetic level (by use of a processed EEG, the BIS-index), and tight control of blood glucose (targeting a range between 80 and 110 mg per dL).

The composite endpoint is appropriate for the perioperative setting. The statistical analysis will allow a separate look at the three interventions due to the factorial design of the trial.

Since there will probably several patients were the aim of providing the tight glycaemic control will be violated the authors will have to use an intention to treat analysis to study this effect. Also providing a comprehensive definition of the success of this intervention is warranted.

The anaesthetic community is waiting for the results of this trial. It will be an outstanding clinical study with highly relevant results for our daily practise.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests