Reviewer's report

Title: Intraoperative ventilation: incidence and risk factors for receiving large tidal volumes during general anesthesia

Version: 1 Date: 26 August 2011

Reviewer: John Kress

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper describing the incidence and risk factors for receiving large tidal volumes in the operating room.

Major Comments
1. The authors chose a cutoff of 8 mL/kg tidal volume despite the "standard" recommendation of 10 mL/kg. Why was this chosen? Was it chosen a priori or after data analysis?

2. There are comparisons between the < 8 ml/kg and > 10 mL/kg groups. What happened to the "in-between" 8-10 mL/kg group?

3. What happened to the patients who required ongoing mechanical ventilation in the ICU. I wonder if ICU physicians may be more inclined to use low tidal volumes than anesthesiologists. These data need to be included in the analyses.

Minor Comments
1. The first sentence in Results section paragraph 2 does not make sense. Please clarify.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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.