Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated central venous pressure is associated with impairment of microcirculatory blood flow in sepsis: a hypothesis generating post hoc analysis

Version: 4 Date: 20 March 2013

Reviewer: Keith Walley

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has improved because the authors are now more circumspect about association versus causality.

Major Compulsory Revisions

I think the analysis and manuscript would be greatly improved by using a more robust statistical model, including some measure of severity of illness (and possibly other factors) as covariates in the model. If the CVP-microcirculation association holds up after correction for these covariates then I think they have a valid hypothesis.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.