Reviewer’s report

Title: The apC treatment improves microcirculation in severe sepsis/septic shock syndrome.

Version: 6 Date: 18 September 2013

Reviewer: brian casserly

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Review of the BMC ANESTHESIOLOGY MANUSCRIPT regarding “The apC treatment improves microcirculation in severe sepsis/septic shock syndrome”

The article has been revised and rewritten in keeping with the two major concerns that were highlighted by me. The first major concern has been dealt with by presenting the paper as a prospective observational study rather than comparing the two groups to see the effect of aPC in microcirculation. Also the exclusion criteria has been clarified and it has been mentioned that a control group is lacking and is a major limitation to this study. It is acknowledged that the no aPC treatment group is not adequately matched to compensate for the multiple confounding variables. The emphasis on the small sample size, the confounding factors that are unaccounted for and lack of randomization have been acknowledged by the authors as important limitations to the study.

Therefore the focus of the study is on the observational analysis in the aPC group showing improvement in the microvasculature parameters. It is also clear that the study is not designed to look at the mortality outcome and conclusions cannot be drawn on the survival. This was the second major concern, which has been rectified in this revised paper

brian casserly

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'