Reviewer's report

Title: Perioperative hypoxemia is common with horizontal positioning during general anesthesia and is associated with major adverse outcomes: a retrospective study of consecutive patients

Version: 1  Date: 19 March 2014

Reviewer: Andrea Montisci

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
In this study, the POPA rate is substantially higher than previous report. You linked this finding to "our reliance on POH monitoring as a signal for potential POPA and extending the period of observation to the first 48 post-operative hours (pg. 13, paragr. 325-326). It is my opinion that the absence of consideration of pre-operative chest x-rays has given an important contribution in the actual POPA rate. I think that is important to appoint it not only in the Study Limitations section.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) Robinul (pg. 8 paragr. 182 and elsewhere in the text): please indicate that Robinul is glycopyrrolate.

Discretionary Revisions:
1) Result section is too long: the subsection "Host condition" may be represented in a more efficacious manner with a table.
2) In the Discussion section, the subsection Horizontal recumbency (pg. 14, paragr. 364-382) may be shortened or completely eliminated.
3) The Discussion section, entirely, can be shortened and more focused. Please avoid overlaps with the Result Section (i.e. pg. 8, par. 198-200 and pg. 10 255-256).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest