Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between red blood cell storage duration and clinical outcome in patients undergoing off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery: A retrospective study

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: Michael Andrawes

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. None

Minor essential revisions:
1. There is some variability in how the data is presented in terms of odds ratios with confidence intervals vs r values. It would be good to have consistency here.
2. The wording of this sentence should be changed to clarify that the last part of the sentence is referring to this study's population. "Moreover, the study population in this study was relatively more homogeneous than those of previous studies on cardiac surgery patients, which contained only coronary disease patients undergoing OPCAB by a single surgeon in a single tertiary center.

Discretionary revisions:
1. Consider referencing the Red Cell Storage Duration Study (RECESS) (clinicaltrials.gov #NCT00991341), another RCT looking at this topic in cardiac surgical patient which has also recently completed enrollment.
2. Consider commenting on the transfusion thresholds used in this study. The transfusion rate (both percentage of patients as well as the number of units per patient is quite high).

Level of interest: An article of importance 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:

Full disclosure - I am assisting with a study on a similar topic. Please see link below for details on this study.

http://clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT00991341

I otherwise have no competing interests.