Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of administration of tranexamic acid in reducing the use of red blood cells and other blood products in cardiac surgery.

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2006

Reviewer: Mark Ereth

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript deserves publication once the authors have satisfied this reviewers questions.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The authors must further deliniate the impact of CPB duration on the results. Specifically does CPB duration correlate with transfusion requirements and is there a difference in duration between the TXA and Non-TXA groups.
The authors failed to present any information regarding cryoprecipitate transfusion, even if this is not significantly different between groups, the data should be included and commented on.
The authors need to refer to the Mangano Study just published in NEJM in their discussion.
The most important criticism that must be addressed is why there was no difference in transfusion between the two treatment groups when patients who returned for a second operation were excluded. If a source of surgical bleeding was found on reexploration, then the authors would be justified in excluding those patients from the analysis. If however no surgical source of bleeding was found then it would be not be appropriate to exclude those patients from analysis.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The authors may want to further discuss how they eliminated bias in patients that were selected for TXA therapy.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Please note that this reviewer agrees with the authors conclusion that TXA is of benefit in primary cardiac surgery, however, the manuscript needs these minor changes to support the conclusion.

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.