Reviewer's report

Title: The incidence of myocardial injury following post-operative Goal Directed Therapy

Version: Date: 25 January 2007

Reviewer: Guillermo Gutierrez

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. There are several instances in the paper where references are made to heart rate and other physiological data that are not shown to the reader. For example: (paper does not have page numbers, so it is difficult to cite the pertaining paragraphs)

RESULTS:
“the DO2I target of 600 ml.min-1.m-2 was achieved…”
“… resulted in greater heart rate (P = 0.0001) and stroke volume …”
“Mean arterial pressure was similar in the two groups”

DISCUSSION
“However, the heart rate was significantly higher …”

Therefore, I do not understand the reticence of the authors to showing results for heart rate and stroke volumes, stating that it would require two additional graphs. The information could be easily placed into a table. If the authors feel this would unduly burden the paper, Table 1 in the present manuscript can be deleted and replaced by a table showing the hemodynamic and oxygen delivery data. In fact, no physiological data alluded to in the paper are shown (DO2I, MAP etc).

2. I continue to be confused by figures 1 and 2. The manuscript states that 6 patients in the Control group (fig 1) and 8 patients in the GDT group (fig 2) were identified with troponin T > 0.01 mcg/L, yet eight points are shown in day 1, fig 1 and 9 points day 1, fig 2. This inconsistency was previously pointed out to the authors who have provided no response, other than saying that the figure legends have been altered to provide more detail, but I don’t see much difference compared to the original manuscript submission.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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