Reviewer's report

Title: Design of a factorial experiment with randomization restrictions to assess medical device performance on vascular tissue.

Version: 4 Date: 13 March 2011

Reviewer: Brij Agarwal

Reviewer's report:

Accept with 'compulsory revision' incorporating the lacunae “that collateral damage although expected was not studied”. Given the importance of this study for design of future studies, it is very important to site this shortcoming with explanation.

Collateral thermal damage can very well be studied in a “In Vitro” setting too. It requires studying the evidence, degree & extent of protein denaturation beyond the point of application of energy along with the degree of denaturation in relation to distance from the point of application of energy.

Some explanation in incorporating this lacunae and possibility to study it must be included in the manuscript before acceptance.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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 interests