Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of crystalloid fluids resuscitation on cardiac function in patients with severe sepsis

Version: 2 Date: 30 January 2008

Reviewer: Sean Bagshaw

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
The introduction/discussion can still be shortened considerably and this may allow the authors to focus more on their central objective and the findings of their study.

The treatment of sepsis often involves numerous interventions - of which fluid therapy is one component. For greater context, the authors should consider adding reference to the study by Kumar et al (CCM 2006 Jun;34(6):1589-96) that showed that the duration of hypotension prior to receiving appropriate antibiotic therapy for patients with early septic shock was a critical determinant of survival - not the volume or type of fluid.

There are still grammatical/spelling errors.

The authors conclude that "colloidal solution prolonged the effectivity of hypertonic solution" however, the VISEP trial would suggest starches may have an adverse effect on kidney function - the authors may wish to qualify this statement.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.