Reviewer's report

Title: Epoetin administrated after cardiac surgery: effects on renal function and inflammation in a randomized controlled study

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Reviewer's report:

The authors report here a very interesting study on the effects of EPO after cardiac surgery on renal function and inflammation. The article is well written and concise. The authors have asked the question if EPO would minimise kidney lesions after cardiac surgery given the plethora of pre-clinical evidence to suggest that this may be true.

Although the authors make the comment that the data for EPO's tissue-protective properties in conditions of AKI is scare in humans is not entirely true. There are numerous studies which have looked at AKI and have seen no real beneficial effect, i.e EARLYARF and TREAT trial, ref 22 of the authors.

The authors have clearly identified their limitations, but table 2 demonstrates that low dose EPO group had reduced uNGAL by 21.4 which was significant yet no comment of this is made in the discussion.

The study is relevant and worth reporting and is appropriate for the journal.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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