Reviewer's report

Title: Injurious mechanical ventilation causes kidney apoptosis and dysfunction during sepsis but not after intra-tracheal acid instillation: an experimental study.

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2014

Reviewer: Johannes G. van der Hoeven

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper aiming to explain the relationship between different types of lung injury and acute kidney injury. The authors use a previously described experiment with new data including AKI parameters. The experiment is well performed and focuses on apoptotic kidney changes. I have only a few minor comments

1 Major compulsory revisions

Although the manuscript may be considered a proof of concept, my main criticism includes the clinical relevance of the model. The authors should better explain why they choose the clinically irrelevant ventilator settings of Vt 15 ml/kg and PEEP 0. At least in the discussion they should try to translate this to current ventilator practice

2 Minor essential revisions

A recent study by Jalkanen et al in humans was unusable to show a relationship between PAI-1 levels and RRT. The authors should discuss this discrepancy more extensively

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

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