Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of the Pringle maneuver on tumor recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma after curative resection (EPTRH): A randomized, prospective, controlled multicenter trial.

Version: 4 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Alistair W Stewart

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is immensely better than the one I saw 3 years ago and it is very good. I have only a few minor comments.

Minor Essential Revisions

It is indicated that the analyses will be using the intention to treat principle but this needs to be made clear in the data analysis section.

Three block sizes are reported but it should be said that these three sizes will be randomly chosen (if that indeed is what is happening).

If a pathological diagnosis of non-primary HCC is made the patient will be excluded. Verify that this decision is being made by someone blinded to the treatment and state that in the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests'