Reviewer's report

Title: Exogenous surfactant therapy in 2013: what is next? Who, when and how should we treat newborn infants in the future?

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Paolo Biban

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Discretionary Revisions

Introduction
1) “many clinical studies have been carried out using synthetic or natural surfactant [2, 3].” It seems that references #2 and #3 deal with synthetic surfactant only… Please check.

Section on “WHICH INFANTS SHOULD WE TREAT WITH EXOGENOUS SURFACTANT THERAPY?”
2) Surfactant therapy for RDS in the preterm newborn: “Both animal and human studies …”: I would suggest to include “early”, given these data are now a bit obsolete...
3) Maybe one or two references would be appropriated here.
4) Newborns with genetic mutations in surfactant proteins: “…usually with poor prognosis and little or transient effect of mechanical ventilation or exogenous surfactant therapy…. “ I would suggest to insert one or two references here.
5) What is the authors’ suggestion for these patients...
7) Surfactant therapy in term and near-term newborns with respiratory distress: (maybe I would modify the title with acute respiratory distress syndrome...).
8) Surfactant therapy for newborns with pulmonary haemorrhage: this section contains some repetitions of previous paragraphs. Please check.
9) Case reports have also noted the successful use of surfactant treatment after idiopathic [29] or iatrogenic lung injury [30]. Please insert the term “pulmonary haemorrhage” for the sake of clarity.

Section on "WHEN SHOULD PRETERM INFANTS WITH RDS BE TREATED WITH EXOGENOUS SURFACTANT?"
10) “National guidelines for exogenous surfactant administration: Table 1 summarizes their national recommendations for surfactant prophylactic use.” Please check this sentence, which is not entirely clear.

11) “The British Association of Perinatal Medicine has recommended that very preterm infants born….” These guidelines are relatively old...(about 15 years...probably obsolete...). At least I would emphasize the release date of these guidelines.


13) Conclusions: “The optimization of a less- or non-invasive method of surfactant administration…..”

I would suggest to include also “uses and”, resembling more the abstract’s content.

14) Table 1, text: I would suggest to insert the word “International guidelines for…”

15) In table 1, please include the number of cited references and most importantly the year of release of each guideline.

16) Table 2: please insert the number of cited references

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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'