Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of low tidal volume ventilation on lung function and inflammation in mice

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2010

Reviewer: Torsten Meier

Reviewer's report:

In the revised manuscript the authors have addressed most of my concerns and changed the manuscript accordingly.

However, based on the minor differences in the expression of the inflammatory cytokines between the study groups the authors should not implicate that tidal volumes lower than 10 ml/kg generally enhance pulmonary inflammation. Ventilation per se without PEEP was the major and tidal volumes lower than 10 ml/kg (maybe 7ml/kg?) if at all only a weak inflammatory stimulus.

A better conclusion based on the presented results is that tidal volumes lower than 10ml/kg did not reduce inflammation additionally. The authors should change that also in the abstract.

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.