Reviewer's report

Title: Acute effects of remote ischemic preconditioning on cutaneous microcirculation - a controlled prospective cohort trial

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2011

Reviewer: Stewart Walsh

Reviewer's report:

The authors have revised the manuscript, taking account of both reviewers' comments. As a basic first step in evaluating the effects of RIPC on skin-flap microcirculation, it represents a useful addition to the knowledge base.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors continue to refer to their controlled study as a trial throughout the manuscript and in the title. The participants were not randomised in any way. The use of 'trial' is potentially confusing and should be avoided. Please replace with 'prospective cohort study'.

2. At one point in methods, the authors state that the study was blinded. Given that all participants underwent preconditioning, it does seem possible for either participants or investigators to be blinded. This term should be removed.

3. In their response, the authors state that 'We performed a Bonferroni-Holm-procedure as standard in multiple t-tests of statistical analysis'. The manuscript states a repeated measures ANOVA was used. They need to clarify which test was used.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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