Reviewer's report

Title: A simple clinical model for planning transfusion quantities in heart surgery

Version: 4 Date: 27 April 2011

Reviewer: Hosam Fawzy

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

The authors responded very well to all the inquires except the Criticism 9.

Criticism 9. Table 4, page 25, lines 2 &3: " actual numbers of packs or red blood cells (PRBC): ≥2 PRBC = less transfused patients; <2 PRBC = over transfused patients;" It is different from what has been mentioned in the first paragraph, page 10.

Reply: In the original version of the manuscript the table caption was confusing form. We have now changed the caption (see Table 5 in the new version of the manuscript).

The definitions of the three groups still different between the text (page 9 last paragraph):

"- Group I, where the difference between the model estimate and the actual number of packs transfused was greater than two (patients in group I were named “less transfused”, because they received appreciably fewer transfusions than estimated by the model);

- Group II, where the absolute value of the difference between the number of packs transfused and the number estimated by model was not more than two packs (“well transfused” patients);

- Group III, where the difference between the actual number of packs transfused and the model estimate was greater than two packs (“over transfused” patients)."

While in Table 5 (page 27):

Group definition is based on differences between the numbers of packs of red blood cells actually transfused and the model-estimated number: difference less than –2 PRBC = group I (303 patients); within ±2 PRBC = group II (2574 patients); greater than 2 PRBC = group III (438 patients).

This error needs to be adjusted.

Many Thanks,

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**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.