Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of omega-3 fish oil fat emulsion contained parenteral nutrition on patients after surgical operation of gastrointestinal tumors

Version: 1 Date: 23 November 2013

Reviewer: Sigrun Friesecke

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Major compulsory Revisions
Wei et al examined the effect of parenteral fish oil in postoperative cancer patients. The results are in line with other studies. The authors do not explain what their study adds to the current knowledge in this field. In their manuscript they referred only to a very small part of the literature regarding this topic (a total of seven references are presented). The physiological and pathophysiological background should be explained more detailed.

Detailed commentary

Abstract:
First sentence: "numbers of immune nutrition" and "cancer therapy research" are two very different points, so please form at least two sentences. I’m not sure what is meant by “numbers of immune nutrition” and why it is mentioned here.

Introduction
The immunologic effect of fish oil should be explained more detailed and with referral to some important references.

Results
There are some points in the results section, which should be written in the discussion: “fish oil is made up…” EPA and DHA can increase …” “The release of lymphocyte antibodies ..” and so on…. For most of these statements the reference is missing.

Discussion
There should be a discussion of the study results in comparison with other studies in this field.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract:
Please explain abbreviations already here.
“Containing” instead of “contained”.
I don’t understand whether blood sampling was done only on day 6 or on each
postoperative day until day 6. Please clarify.

Introduction:
First sentence: see above.
Abbreviations: please explain
“Controlled…” instead of “control clinical trial”

Material and Methods
How was the randomisation done?
What are “major gastrointestinal diseases”? please explain this exclusion criterion more detailed.
"The clinical characteristics …. “ belongs to the section “Results”.
. “calories”, not “calories for energy”
“Sugar” is a bit unusual in a scientific text. Which sort of carbohydrates did you applicate?
Why did your patients not get any oral intake in the postoperative days?
What was the reason for 7 days duration of the postoperative antibiotic prophylaxis?
.

Results
I´m not sure, what the second sentence means (---the vital signs of both groups were stable, with adverse effects to parenteral nutrition”).

Discussion
I don´t see, why a lower serum creatinine is an indicator for decreased hepatic damage.The third sentence is not understandable in my opinion (“however, it is clear …to support the body´s immunity”). The description of laboratory parameters should be done in the section “Results”.

Tables
Please explain the abbreviations used.

Quality of written English:Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review:No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests to declare.