Reviewer’s report

Title: A prospective, randomized, controlled study of omega-3 fish oil fat emulsion-based parenteral nutrition for patients following surgical resection of gastric tumors

Version: 2  Date: 18 December 2013

Reviewer: Philip Calder

Reviewer’s report:

This is the revised version of this manuscript which reports data from a RCT of iv fish oil in post surgery patients. This is a topic of interest. The revisions have greatly improved the manuscript and I thank the authors for their efforts. However there are still a number of issues that require attention:

1. Abstract, Results, line 2. Strictly speaking authors did not measure "inflammatory reaction" but the "concentrations of inflammatory markers".

2. Abstract, Conclusion, lines 1 and 2. There is a conclusion "promotes the recovery of the immune function" but a) there is nothing in the Results section of the Abstract about "immune function" and b) authors did not assess immune function.

3. Introduction is still inadequate. There are three key issues to be addressed here:
   a) there needs to be better referencing. How can a reader find out about the claimed effects of EPA and DHA on growth, apoptosis, immune function, SIRS if the authors do not provide references to support these statements;
   b) The new section does not provide any rationale for doing the study. There are many studies of iv fish oil in surgical patients and several meta-analyses (in my last report I mentioned those of Chen and of Wei both published in 2010). What do these studies show? Why is it necessary to do more studies?
   c) No clear rationale or hypothesis for this study is provided.

4. References are presented in several different formats. Please unify these.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received speaking honoraria from Fresenius Kabi, the producers of the fish oil emulsion used in this study.