Reviewer's report

**Title:** Endoscopic Saphenous harvesting with an Open CO2 System (ESOS) Trial. Study design and rationale of a prospective randomized trial for coronary artery bypass grafting surgery

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 1 April 2011

**Reviewer:** lawrence friedman

**Reviewer's report:**

I have reviewed this manuscript and have a few comments/questions:

a) In this unblinded trial, are there any procedures for assuring that outcome assessment is unbiased?

b) It is unclear how the projected sample size is adequate for the 2-year endpoint. What are the expected MACE event rates? Is this being planned as a superiority or a noninferiority trial? If the former, what difference in MCE will be likely to be detected with 80% power? If the latter, what is the delta of noninferiority and why?

c) A more minor issue: in several places the abbreviations are used before they are spelled out.

d) The language is at times awkward and has some grammatical errors. The manuscript should be carefully edited by a native English speaker.