Reviewer's report

Title: Use of dexmedetomidine for prophylactic analgesia and sedation in delayed extubation patients after craniotomy: a study protocol and statistical analysis plan for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 24 July 2013

Reviewer: Wilhelm J Schulte-Mattler

Reviewer's report:
A well written, straightforward plan to assess a potentially beneficial effect of dexmedetomidine in delayed extubation patients after craniotomy.

The study design will adequately test a prospectively defined hypothesis.
Sufficient details are provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses.
The planned statistical analysis is appropriate (see also below).
The writing is acceptable.

Minor Essential Revisions:
The distribution of the data (especially the primary outcome variable) should be tested for normality before parametric statistical tests are employed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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