Reviewer's report

Title: Transversus Abdominis Plane (TAP) Block following Abdominally-Based Breast Reconstruction: A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol

Version: 2 Date: 18 September 2013

Reviewer: jian farhadi

Reviewer's report:

two main point of concern:
- the inclusion of MS-TRAM and DIEP can lead to a bias. The data analysis would need to take this in to consideration. As an exclusion criteria should be included abdominal wall reconstruction with a mesh. Furthermore the dissection of the DIEP flap should be standardised in the sense that intramuscular nerves should be preserved.
- slim patients with the potential of a tight abdominal wound closure which could lead to higher rate of pain should be either excluded or at least recorded

conclusion
Discretionary revisions

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:

no disclosure to make