Reviewer's report

Title: Rationale and study design of PROVAR - A randomized controlled trial on the effects of variable versus conventional lung protective mechanical ventilation during open abdominal surgery

Version: 2  Date: 27 March 2014

Reviewer: Dirk Schadler

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

Congratulations to this revised version of you manuscript, I have no further comments.

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 have received lecture fees and consulting honoraria from Dräger Medical. I received lecture fees from Hamilton medical. My institution receives restricted research grants from Dräger Medical and from the German ministry of Research and Education.