Reviewer's report

**Title:** Medial Open Transversus Abdominis Plane (Motap) Catheters For Analgesia Following Open Liver Resection: Protocol For A Multicentre, Randomized Control Trial

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 19 May 2014

**Reviewer:** Christoph Michalski

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a very interesting study protocol, already enrolling patients. It is important in that it addresses the question of improved pain control in patients undergoing liver surgery. I agree that epidural analgesia is not optimal for these patients and that alternative approaches are needed. The author's will conduct an RCT comparing a locally placed catheter analgesia (in the tranversus abdominis plane) with a placebo catheter. In their own retrospective experience, this technique has reduced postoperative narcotics use by about 50%. The power calculation for this study has been performed using an assumed 40% reduction in opioid use. I think this is a very reasonable approach and I am excited to see the results of this study.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests.