Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of remote ischemic preconditioning preceding coronary artery bypass grafting on inducing neuroprotection (RIPCAGE): study protocol for a randomized trial [NCT02177981]

Version: 2
Date: 18 September 2014

Reviewer: Kristina Dupont Hougaard

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Numbers of inflations should be mentioned in the abstract.
2. CABG should be spelled out in the first sentence in the background part (page 5)
3. Page 6 sentence one, do you mean Troponin T? (Not troponin I)
4. Why is 3 inflations chosen? Could be pointed out on page 9 (Intervention and control protocols)
5. When will the neurocognitive test be made? Has to be mentioned in page 10

Discretionary Revisions

6. More detailed description of the MRI sequences in table 2. Ex: which kind of ischemia do you see in the different sequences (DWI, FLAIR).

A nice designed study, in which the hypothesis is clear. The description of the study will make one able to replicate the study, and the writing is acceptable. (As I am a non-native English speaker it would be appropriate to have a native speaker to comment on this point).

The statistical seems appropriate, but if not all ready maybe it should be looked at by a statistician.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests