Editors-in-Chief
Trials

Dear Editors,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript “A randomized comparative study of patients undergoing myocardial revascularization with or without cardiopulmonary bypass surgery: The MASS III Trial” for publication consideration in Trials Journal. The present work presents the rationale and protocol design of the ongoing randomized MASS III trial. The MASS III Trial is a large project from a single center at a tertiary cardiac care hospital, The Heart Institute of the University São Paulo, Brazil (InCor). The aim of the MASS III Trial is to compare medical effectiveness, cerebral injury, quality of life, and the cost-effectiveness of coronary surgery with and without of cardiopulmonary bypass in patients with multivessel coronary disease referred for both strategies. The predefined primary end point was the incidence of cardiovascular mortality, cerebrovascular accident, nonfatal myocardial infarction, and refractory angina requiring revascularization. The secondary end points in this trial include noncardiac mortality, presence and severity of angina, quality of life based on the SF-36 Questionnaire, and cost-effectiveness at discharge and at 5-year follow-up. In this scenario, we will analyze the cost of the initial procedure, hospital length of stay, resource utilization, repeat hospitalization, and repeat revascularization events during the follow-up. Exercise capacity will be assessed at 6-months,
12-months, and the end of follow-up. A neurocognitive evaluation will be assessed in a subset of subjects using the Brain Resource Center computerized neurocognitive battery and magnetic resonance imaging will be made to detect any cerebral injury before and after either surgical procedures.

This work is not under consideration elsewhere, nor has not been previously appeared in print. All the authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript and none has a financial or any other relation that would pose a conflict of interest. Additionally, each of the authors had substantial contributions either on conception and design or on the drafting of the article and critical revision for this important intellectual content.

We thank the editorial board and referees in advance for considering our work.

Sincerely yours,

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