Reviewer's report

Title: Perioperative Oxygen Fraction - Effect on Surgical Site Infection and Pulmonary Complications after Abdominal Surgery: a Randomized Clinical Trial. Rationale and Design of the PROXI-Trial.

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2008

Reviewer: gordon doig

Reviewer's report:

Dear Investigators

I commend you on your outstanding undertaking, especially with regards to your proposed 'masked manuscript' preparation!

Could I please suggest you address the following very minor details:

1. Page 7. Please report whether block size was fixed or variable (no need to stipulate block size).

2. On Page 13 you describe that "Mortality will be analyzed by proportional hazards method (Cox regression analysis)." Could I suggest you confer with your trial statistician very briefly. Although your English is likely better than my own, this may be a minor 'technical' translation issue: A "proportional hazards" model, often called a 'survival analysis', does not assess 'mortality', it assesses "time-to-mortality". Did you wish to assess "time to mortality" or "landmark mortality rates" (ex 19% vs 5%)? If you intended to analyze "landmark mortality rates", a multivariate logistic regression model may be more appropriate. As the investigators, the choice of model is yours. If you did intend to analyze 'time-to-mortality', could you please edit the appropriate sentence on Page 13 to read: "Time-to-mortality will be analyzed by proportional hazards method (Cox regression analysis)."

Thank you sincerely for sharing your manuscript with us.

Gordon S Doig