Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of a Lung Sealant System on Morbidity after Pleural Decortication for Empyema Thoracis: A Prospective Randomized, Blinded Study

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Reviewer: Ali Belboul

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written paper with a correct prospective randomized blinded study about the effect of a sealant (Pleuraseal) on morbidity after decortications. However there are some considerations to do:
- In Table I, the results of Male/female ratio were switched.
- I believe that the authors should explain in detail the indications and conditions for surgery and if the patients included in the study were selected or not. From the excellent results reported in both groups seems that the patients were in perfect general and respiratory conditions. The postoperative air leak is a very important problem in patients with bullous disease or emphysema, but in the paper is not indicated if these concerns have been considered. In this study more than 70% of the patients are smokers.
- The amount of fluid from the chest tube depends on the areas of dissection in the hilum, in the mediastinum and also on the thoracotomy and only a very small percentage on the surface of the lung involved. Therefore, how do the authors explain the difference between the two groups considering that the fibrin sealent was applied only in the areas of risk for air leaks?

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 declare that I have no competing interests