Reviewer's report

Title: Difference Between Pre-operative and Cardiopulmonary Bypass Mean Arterial Pressures is Independently Associated with Early Cardiac Surgery-Associated Acute Kidney Injury

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2010

Reviewer: Paul Boucher

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revision:

There are some issues that I thought would be important to mention in the discussion:

1) Is the measurement of preoperative MAP valid? Could some perioperative factors have contributed to the result (does every anesthetist hold antihypertensives on the day of surgery?)

2) Is it the outcome perhaps related to uncontrolled hypertension causing occult kidney disease (as a marker for propensity for renal injury) rather than a modifiable factor (MAP on CPB).

3) Side-biting clamps generally imply more manipulation of the aorta.

4) Some of the issues surrounding the negative effects of attempting to achieve a goal MAP 26 mmHg greater than the standard in their institution were touched upon. There are others - namely bleeding, hemolysis (secondary to higher pump flows), these may also contribute to renal injury.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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