Reviewer's report

Title: PEEP-ZEEP technique: Cardiorespiratory repercussions in mechanically ventilated patients submitted to a coronary artery bypass graft surgery.

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2011

Reviewer: Victor Issa

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In the present manuscript Herbst-Rodrigues and co-workers analyze safety issues regarding the cardio-respiratory systems with the use of PEEP-ZEEP technique in 15 patients submitted to CABG; the authors found no change in most ventilatory, respiratory and hemodynamic parameters; only inspiratory peak and plateau pressures increased during intervention, but remained within safe limits.

The objective of the paper is well outlined, the results are objectively presented and the discussion is appropriate.

Major compulsory revisions

The main limitation of the study is the small number of patients studied; a negative result in this setting should not be regarded as an evidence for absence of difference. As the study primary objective was to evaluate safety issues, the small number of patients limits the conclusions. The authors should comment how the number of patients was estimated.

Minor essential revisions

Additional baseline clinical data should be added to table 1, such as hemoglobin level, left ventricular ejection fraction, and presence of co-morbidities such as COPD, hypertension and diabetes mellitus.

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

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'