Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of continuous renal replacement therapy on renal inflammatory cytokines during extracorporeal membrane oxygenation in a porcine model.

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Reviewer: Alan Gaffney

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Yimin et al. present a research paper assessing the effects of CRRT on the levels of ECMO-induced renal cytokines in a porcine model. They clearly demonstrate increased levels of renal cytokines in the ECMO group compared to the control and sham groups. In addition, they demonstrate that these increased levels can be lowered by the concommitant addition of CRRT to ECMO. The experimental design is sound with the addition of a sham group to the control group.

1. It would be useful to explain how much of the procedure was carried out in the sham group. i.e. were the animals canulated and trachioistemised?

Although work has previously been done showing cytokine release during ECMO and reduction in cytokine levels by CRRT, the assessment of combined effects on renal cytokines in this paper is novel.

2. There are some passages that are quite difficult to interpret due to the quality of the written english, mainly in the introduction and discussion sections. These would need to be re-written.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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