Reviewer's report

Title: Preoperative levels of Hemoglobin and B-Type Natriuretic Peptide are associated with postoperative morbidity in heart surgery

Version: 1  Date: 27 March 2012

Reviewer: Jose G Diez

Reviewer's report:

Dear Sirs,

I have reviewed with interest your manuscript on the evaluation of preoperatory risk markers and outcomes (death, ACS, rehospitalization through 1 year). In this prospective cohort of 554 patients, the variables that conveyed a higher and independent risk for postoperatory adverse outcomes were: elevated BNP and low Hb levels.

The manuscript is clear and well written, it has acceptable graphics and the results support he conclusions.

However, there are some issues and comments to consider prior to publication: The study was performed at an Institution located in a city very high above sea level. The expected normal values and definitions for relative anemia need to be clarified in the manuscript as these results would only apply to comparable sites. These would explain why the identified value of Hb< 13 mg/dL does not compare to previous reports or generally accepted low Hb levels (know to correlate with adverse effects).

Note that this clarification applies to Hb, it is unknown if patients with some degree of pulmonary hypertension at high altitude would have higher levels of BNP at baseline (when compared to sea level individuals).

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: None.