Reviewer's report

**Title:** Retrospective analysis of pre- and intraoperative risk factors for readmission to the intensive care unit after fast track cardiac surgery

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 19 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Jens Litmathe

**Reviewer's report:**

The study addresses an interesting topic in cardiac surgery in times when resources at many ICU settings are short. It reflects the feasibility of fast-track protocols well and discusses also the borders of such proceedings. Impaired left ventricular function and readmission to ICU could be identified as risk factors for major adverse events. Preoperative patient conditions, such as NYHA- or ASA-score are predictive for the feasibility of a fast track protocol.

The manuscript is well written and from conductive structure. The patient cohort as well as the statistical methods are appropriate. After all it is of high relevance to both the cardiosurgical and the ICU-physician.

I recommend publication in its present form.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.