Reviewer's report

Title: 6 percent hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4 vs. a balanced crystalloid solution in cardiopulmonary bypass priming: A randomized, prospective study

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Reviewer: SERDAR GUNAYDIN

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the manuscript entitled “6% hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4 vs. a balanced crystalloid solution in cardiopulmonary bypass priming: A randomized, prospective study”.

This study compares 6% hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4 vs. a balanced crystalloid solution in priming solutions during CPB within 200 patients.

Major points:
1. 6% hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4 is a popular priming agent used open heart surgery with CPB. The patient population is relatively small to bring novel information.
2. The study is well designed but unfortunately nothing significantly different could be documented.
3. The study would be of more interest if more than two regimens were compared.
4. 6% hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4 solution is previously studied for renal protection, anti-inflammatory and hematologic effects. We learn nothing different in this limited study.
5. References are relatively old. There are 2013 publications about 6% hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.4.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'