Reviewer’s report

Title: Early postoperative serum cystatin C predicts severe acute kidney injury following cardiac surgery: a post-hoc analysis of a randomized controlled trial.

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2013

Reviewer: zaccaria ricci

Reviewer’s report:

the authors answered to almost all my observations (but not all). I more-less agree with the changes made.

- Still RIFLE and AKIN criteria simultaneously present and a bit confusing me
- I do not understand the new tab5: are those time points the same than in tabs 2, 3 and 4? (I actually asked if creatinine kinetics could resemble or even improve cystatin C performance: could you reproduce tab2,3 or 4 with creatinine?)
- English language still needs improvement (some sentences are really difficult to follow)
- I would suggest the authors to remark in the discussion the time that is potentially gained by the use of CysC in your patients just before postulating “what are about patient’s benefits in the development of new biomarkers in AKI patients?”

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflict of interest to declare