Reviewer's report

**Title:** Polyglycolic acid sheet with fibrin glue potentiates the effect of a fibrin-based haemostat in cardiac surgery

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 13 April 2014

**Reviewer:** Claudia Romagnoni

**Reviewer's report:**

Major revisions

1. Have the authors checked the normality of the data with the Shapiro Wilk test?

In response to the comment concerning the Shapiro Wilk test, we did not perform it.

If you don’t check the normality of the collected data you can’t choose the correct test to analyze them. You used the t-test but if your data haven’t a normal distribution you can’t use it so you can’t be sure that the p values you considered are correct. You have to verify that.

2. The sample size is low, especially in consideration of the fact that this is an in vitro study, not an in vivo one. Are the authors sure that the small amount of data is sufficient to achieve a good statistical power?

In response to the comment concerning low sample size in spite of in vitro study, we think that the sample size is probably enough, because results from two experimental studies have reached statistically significant (p=0.03, and p=0.0004, respectively).

The fact that the p values are < 0.05 doesn’t allow to state that the sample size is sufficient.

**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