Reviewer's report

Title: Serum Lipid Levels and Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation

Version: 2 Date: 24 February 2014

Reviewer: Renato Alves

Reviewer's report:

GENERAL REVIEW

1- The question posed by the authors is well defined. It is a very important subject nowadays because atrial fibrillation (AF) is a complication very common in the postoperative of cardiac surgery.

2- The methods are well described and appropriate. However, in the table 2 did not see the thyroid function tests and the potassium level. I think is necessary to put them. The age is different between the groups. The group 1 that showed AF is older than group 2 and this fact could to influence starting AF. This subject could be in the discussion. I don’t understand what happened with the use of drugs, betablockers and statins, they are stopped or not? The authors need to explain better in the text!

3- The results are clear and showed high incidence of AF. However, I would like a confirmation this incidence. Moreover, how many cases that developed AF were there of valvular cardiac surgery and revascularization of myocardium comparing another group? Because the incidence of AF is higher in valvular surgery!

4- I think this manuscript adhere to the relevant standard. The subject is important and there are a low number of researches about this.

5- The discussion and conclusion are supported by the data. But I’m confused when finish the discussion and start the conclusion. I put some part of conclusion in the discussion. Please to see in the text below.

6- I think the title could be changed by “cholesterol levels and postoperative atrial fibrillation”. Because the results found. The abstract there is abbreviations, I think would be better starting abbreviations only in the introduction. Moreover, in the text the authors put words after they have done abbreviations. They need to correct this.

7- The writing needs to correct some sentences and words and an appropriate review because it didn’t comprehensible in some texts.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1- The table 2 did not show the thyroid function tests and the potassium level. I think is necessary to put them. What happened with the use of drugs, betablockers and statins, they are stopped or not? The authors need to explain better in the text! I think the triglycerides level is not correct. Please to check this,
because the VLDL-c level are different.

2- To correct discussion and conclusion. I put in the text.

3- The abstract there is abbreviations, I think would be better starting abbreviations only in the introduction. Moreover, in the text the authors put words after they have done abbreviations.

4- The writing needs to correct some sentences and words and an appropriate review. I don't understand the paragraph and the sentence of the reference 18 in the discussion.

5- I think except the first paragraph and the last sentence of the conclusions, all the rest should be retired and put it in the discussion.

6- The authors always need to put dot after the magazine’s name before the year in the references.

Minor Essential Revisions
How many cases that developed AF were there of valvular cardiac surgery and revascularization of myocardium comparing another group?

Discretionary Revisions
The age is different between the groups. The group 1 that showed AF is older than group 2 and this fact could to influence starting AF.

I think the title could be changed by “cholesterol levels and postoperative atrial fibrillation”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests