Reviewer’s report

Title: Red blood cell transfusion in patients with traumatic brain injury: a systematic review protocol

Version: 1 Date: 16 April 2014

Reviewer: Jean-Louis Vincent

Reviewer’s report:

the project is interesting, but this is only the methodology - where are the results?
-the amount of RBC transfused should be normalized to the number of days spent in the ICU;
-it would be nice to examine subgroups according to comorbidities +/- a) heart disease (CAD); b) chronic renal failure; c) cancer
-it would be nice to better specify which complications will be looked for and how they will be reported (as groups; one by one etc.)
-classification of "severe" TBI could be improved (we assume it will be on GCS - any data on Marshall score on CT-scan ?)
- better define "unfavorable neurological outcome" - on GOS? mRamkin?
- correct for bleeding
- is it possible to retrieve for some studies the IMPACT score (which predicts mortality at 6-months) - the authors could then compare the predicted with the observed mortality in the sub-groups of patients according to the total number of RBC received or to their RBC/ICU days ratio.

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:

no