Reviewer’s report

Title: Tracheostomy in septic and non-septic patients can be performed without bleeding complications in case of normal thromboelastometry results (EXTEM CT) despite increased PT-INR: a prospective pilot study

Version: 4

Date: 24 November 2014

Reviewer: Klaus Görlinger

Reviewer’s report:

General Comment:
The authors addressed the reviewer’s comments adequately. There are only some minor mistakes left which should be corrected in the final version.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Page 4, line 13: delete “maximum”, since A10 is defined as the amplitude in mm 10 min after CT.
Page 4, line 13f: Change wording to “maximum clot firmness-MCF”.
Page 4, line 14: Change wording to “Lysis index-LI30 and LI60”.
Page 4, line 15f: Change wording to “… where ROTEM revealed pathological values in EXTEM CT. ROTEM was not re-assessed after the intervention.”
Page 6, line 8: Delete one superfluous bracket.
Page 8, line 7f: Change wording to “The normalization of EXTEM CT despite an increased INR value might be due to the presence of sepsis with increased tissue factor expression on circulation monocytes …”.
Page 9, line 4: Change wording to “CT – coagulation time (time from starting the test until a clot firmness of 2 mm is reached)
Page 14, table 1: Change “LY30 and LY60” to “LI30 and LI60”. (LY30 and LY60 are TEG parameters describing lysis in percentage of MA 30 or 60 min after MA, respectively. LI30 and LI60 are ROTEM parameters describing the residual clot firmness in percentage of MCF 30 or 60 min after CT, respectively).
Page 14, table 1 legend: Change wording to “… MCF-maximum clot firmness; LI30 and LI60 …” and Normal values “… LI60 0-15%; …”.
Page 14, table 1 legend: I assume you want to point out that * means p<0.05, ** means p<0.01, and *** means p< 0.001.
Figure 1: Change “INR 1,2-1,3” to “INR 1,21-1,29”.
Figure 3: Change “INR 1,2-1,3” to “INR 1,21-1,29”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

During the last five years I received travel reimbursements and lecture fees by Tem International GmbH, Munich, Germany. Since July 2012 I am the Medical Director of Tem International GmbH, Munich, Germany.