Reviewer's report

**Title:** Thoracic Epidural analgesia on Oxygenation and pulmonary Shunt Fraction during One-lung Ventilation: A meta-Analysis

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 17 November 2014

**Reviewer:** Nuzhet Mert Senturk

**Reviewer's report:**

Major comment:
1. I am not an expert in statistics... But I would like to know: A metaanalysis should give me also some info about the "strength" of each study: Usually I have seen a figure where a horizontal line in the middle shows the "zero" ; and results of different studies (with their CI's) can be found at both sides of this line (left: favoring one strategy, right favoring the opposite). THERE IS NOT SUCH A FIGURE IN THIS MANUSCRIPT:... I am not sure, whether this is appropriate.
2. The discussion is indeed too long. And consists of a lot of speculations that hardly can supported by the findings of the metaanalysis.
3. I really would like to see, which studies were supporting the TEA, and which not... Moreover, I really think a reader would like to see the results and CI's of each study (see comment 1)

I wonder whether and how the studies of the authors (included in the metaanalysis) have changed the results.

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests