Author’s response to reviews

Title: Intra-operative red blood cell transfusion and mortality after cardiac surgery

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Answers to the reviewers;

We thank Patrick Meybohm, Mohammad Reza Rasouli and Tobias Pieger for their time to review our manuscript.

All changes concerning the second review are marked in the revised documents.

Mohammad Reza Rasouli, MD (Reviewer 2)
I recommend them to incorporate some of their answers such as hemodynamic monitoring (not using of PA catheter and use of TEE) and results after adjusting for FFP in the manuscript.

The use of intraoperative TEE monitoring has been added to the document:

In methods, page 3, row 61-63 we added: “Intraoperative TEE as part of hemodynamic monitoring was routinely performed during valve surgery. In isolated CABG, use of TEE monitoring was left to the discretion of the attending anesthetist.”

Based on clinical judgement RBC transfusion is representative for transfusion. The results of the effect of plasma transfusion in PS adjusted mortality in Q4 have been added in the document:
In results, page 7, row 166-168 we added: ‘’In Q4, OR for RBC associated mortality changed with 7% after adding plasma transfusion to the PS adjusted mortality (OR 3.8, P=0.021).”