Reviewer’s report

Title: Extracorporeal liver support: trending epidemiology and mortality - A nationwide database analysis 2007-2015

Version: 0 Date: 27 May 2019

Reviewer: Norman Leslie Sussman

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Wiesmann et al. describes the use of extracorporeal liver support in Germany from 2007 to 2015. The paper is interesting in that it demonstrates the ongoing use of an expensive technology that has no proven benefit, demonstrated by several controlled trials, and referenced in this manuscript. To their credit, the authors suggest that ELS be used only in clinical trials. As an aside, I feel that purification devices such as MARS should not be termed liver support since they have no liver function.

The weaknesses of the paper are the limitations of the data as acknowledged by the authors.

The paper will benefit from minor editorial revisions.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further
assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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I have received funding for a stem cell project that may eventually allow us to develop a bioartificial liver - I do not consider this a major conflict.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
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