Reviewer's report

Title: Bleeding complications and related blood component transfusions in cholecystectomy: register study of over 22 000 cholecystectomies in Finland

Version: 2  Date: 3 June 2015

Reviewer: Gabriel Sandblom

Reviewer's report:

The paper is based on a large cohort of patients undergoing cholecystectomy, with data on blood transfusions as surrogate measure for bleeding.

The size of the study is very impressing, the methods adequate and the paper well-written. Nevertheless, the conclusions that can be draw are very limited. The only real conclusion is that the bleeding in open cholecystectomy is greater than in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This is not very surprising and does not provide anything new.

Major compulsory revisions

The paper would be improved if the figures on transfusions following cholecystectomy would be related to something else. What is the transfusion in the whole population? Would it be possible to provide a ratio of observed to expected ratio of transfusions, adjusting for gender and age? Do the authors have data on transfusions for other benign conditions, e.g. hernia surgery or gynecologic surgery?

Minor essential revisions

In the second sentence under results in the abstract, LC and OC seems to be mixed up (more transfusions in the LC group than the OC group).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.