Reviewer’s report

Title: A comparative study on the efficacy of a retrograde perfusion technique and a antegrade perfusion technique for donor kidney recovery in transplantation in pigs

Version: 1 Date: 09 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Alkesh Jani

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is improved and contains fewer typos. However the following issues are not addressed and need revision:

1. I am surprised at the warm ischemia time of ~ 3 minutes? The authors responded to my initial query by explaining why it is important to keep WIT limited, which is I understand. I am querying whether you performed the vascular anastomosis completely from start to finish with no further work in ~3 minutes as suggested in Table 1? That seems too low to me, especially if you are completing the venous anastomosis first. In our experience porcine veins are very friable and require care. I suspect you are stating very low values because you are timing only a certain part of the procedure but I cannot tell from the description you have provided?

2. I think it would be useful to include a diagram of the experimental procedures and time points in the methods so that it is clear what is being shown.

3. Magnification needs to be given in the methods for histology

4. Scores for Day 7 histology are not given as requested?

5. How is tubular dilation assessed in Table 1? A score is given bit it is not clear if tubular dilatation was measured? This looks like a subjective assessment. The other histological parameters should be assessed in the same way and quantified as much as possible as opposed to a subjective assessment (e.g., cells displaying morphological features of apoptosis can be counted; the # of tubules displaying brush border injury can be counted (the severity of brush border injury will require semi-quantitative assessment which is OK), etc.

6. The authors state the histology on day 7 is "normal". I am a little surprised therefore that the sCr was elevated in both groups (not withstanding that there is only one kidney). Why is the sCr elevated (more than expected after nephrectomy) if there is no histological injury? Histological scores and images should be shown.
I believe the issues outlined above can be addressed. Rather than focusing on a speedy resubmission, I would suggest completely addressing all of the issues raised above would be helpful.

**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.

Yes

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

No

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

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/). 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.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal