Reviewer's report

**Title:** Effect of restrictive fluid therapy with hydroxyethyl starch during esophagectomy on postoperative outcomes: a retrospective cohort study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 26 Nov 2018

**Reviewer:** Torben Glatz

**Reviewer's report:**

I read with interest the study "Effect of restrictive fluid therapy with hydroxyethyl starch during esophagectomy on postoperative outcomes: a retrospective cohort study". While I believe that the authors address an important topic, the study design is unfortunately not suitable to give adequate answers. In this retrospective study the patientets receiving intraoperative HES are the patients with intraoperative circulation problems. They are prone to develop postoperative complications. The administration of HES is merely a confounder. I suggest a different study design to investigate this interesting topic.

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

No

**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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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