Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of low central venous pressure on hepatic surgical field bleeding and serum lactate in patients undergoing partial hepatectomy: a prospective randomized controlled trial

Version: 3 Date: 14 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Most of my queries have been addressed. Must admit I liked the response "the surgical professor could not cooperate."

However, I do still have some reservations.

In the methodology the authors have emphasized that the same surgical team resected all cases but it is not clear from how they phrased things that the same parenchymal transectional technique was used in all cases.

In addition the use of PTC appears to be used on an ad hoc basis, rather than being used in all cases.

It has to be clearly stated that the same parenchymal technique was used throughout. Also in the table comparing the groups, as well as documenting duration of PTC, they have to state number of patients that it was used in e.g. for minor liver resections PTC is often not used. They should also state PTC practice e.g. 10 mins on 5 mins off?

I know the manuscript is primarily focusing on the anesthetic perspective but surgical technique has a big influence on events in liver surgery and the authors have to be clear on this aspect too, as these factors will confound their conclusions.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Some assistance with grammar would also be of help in some sections.

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.

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.

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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