Reviewer's report

**Title:** Early Goal-Directed Therapy in the Management of Severe Sepsis or Septic Shock in Adults: A Meta-analysis of Randomized Control Trails

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 12 December 2014

**Reviewer:** Andrew Rhodes

**Reviewer's report:**

**Comments:**

1. On the whole the text is well written but the figures are too many and some are confusing. It would be helpful to have the figures order the studies in the same fashion.
2. I am not sure why the Jansen study is missing as this was the only lactate clearance study against placebo.
3. I am not sure of the merits of mixing lactate clearance studies that are comparing against EGDT with the EGDT studies. This is not assessing similar methodologies.
4. It is more usual to perform a random effects model when heterogeneity is present.
5. The study named ‘Group’ should be described by the first author like the other studies.
6. The Process trial had three study arms. The second was a modified EGDT arm and hence should be included in the modified sub group.
7. many of the subgroups are not normally distributed and hence should be analyzed in a different fashion.

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I am a chair of the SSC