Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of 6% balanced hydroxyethyl starch following cardiopulmonary bypass on renal function: A retrospective study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Jun 2020

Reviewer: Pankaj Kaul

Reviewer's report:

This retrospective observational study studies the impact of 6% balanced hydroxyethyl starch (HES) following CP bypass on renal function in 1657 patients by comparing the end points of acute kidney injury (AKI), requirement for renal replacement therapy (RRT) or early mortality in patients who had moderate dose of HES (greater than 20 ml/kg) with those who had low dose HES (less than 20 ml/kg). They found patients receiving moderate dose of HES had significantly higher AKI but no higher requirement for RRT and no increase in early mortality. Unfortunately the authors offer no explanation for why this might be so. They also do not tell us why we should use low dose HES at all.

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