Reviewer’s report

Title: The efficacy of Indwelling Pleural Catheter placement versus IPC placement PLUS sclerosant (talc) in patients with malignant pleural effusions managed exclusively as out-patients (IPC-PLUS): study protocol for a randomised trial

Version: 3 Date: 1 December 2014

Reviewer: Robert C. Rintoul

Reviewer’s report:

Overall well written manuscript. Generally clear bar a few minor points raised below - if these could be addressed/clarified it would improve the manuscript further.

Major compulsory revisions

None

Minor Essential revisions

Exclusion criteria

Slightly confusing section about exclusion criteria re pleural fluid. One paragraph says US should not influence randomisation – next paragraph says that if >1/3 hemithorax occupied by fluid then not for randomisation. Could this be clarified please?

US scans – what level of experience do operators have to have?

Safety reporting

Adverse events – number 4

Should be >/= 20 bpm over baseline NOT less than

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have not competing interests