Reviewer’s report

Title: BIOLAP: Biological versus synthetic mesh in laparo-endoscopic inguinal hernia repair: Study protocol for a randomized multicenter, self-controlled clinical trial

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Daniel Reim

Reviewer's report:

Well written summary of BIOLAP study protocol:

Just some minor issues:

1. Are there any other secondary endpoints, which were not mentioned in the manuscript

2. Please discuss in more detail why two primary endpoints were chosen, which is possibly difficult to interpret when finally analyzing the data.

3. Please discuss the study design more extensively in the light of current evidence. Why is open repair ruled out for example?

4. Please indicate that no commercial sponsoring is taking place. It is almost ruled out due to the fact that the study is sponsored by German Research Society. However, a company’s financial interest is not negligible in this case.

5. Please provide the Ethics Board Statement. Is there an official clearance from authorities? Due to the randomized design it is conceivable that the study will fall under medicinal devices legislation even if there is a CE mark.

6. Please describe how surgical quality is ensured. Even if only certified hernia centers are allowed to participate the study, surgical differences might play a certain role.
**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Quality of figures**

All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

**Statistical review**

Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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