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: 26 Aug 2018

Reviewer: René Fortelny

Reviewer's report:

This randomized, multicenter, prospective study comparing biological versus synthetic mesh in laparo-endoscopic inguinal hernia is quite of main interest in hernia surgery. Thus this study protocol seems very structured and clear some shortcomings have to be addressed:

- the title of this paper should include anyhow the item of inguinal or groin hernia repair

- since TAPP- or TEP-technique is possible the title should be changed into ...in laparo-endoscopic inguinal hernia repair

- missing: Tables of inclusion and exclusion criteria
  
  What kind of hernia classification will be used - EHS?
  
  Which kind of pain assessment will be used VAS or NAR or other?
  
  Is there any kind of QoL- assessment included in the study?

- "Additional glue fixation may be used" in the biological mesh group - in which cases?

- in case of big size medial hernia (> 3cm) the Guidelines of the EHS and HerniaSurge recommend to use a fixation. in the protocol no statement can be found concerning this crucial part of procedure.

- using two different techniques (TAPP and TEP) might be a risk of bias concerning the primary endpoint of pain.

- what kind of preop. investigation to confirm the bilateral inguinal hernia is a precondition to include the patient?

- is there any kind of intraop. documentation of hernia, mesh placement or fixation intended?
- what kind of structured perioperative pain medication is planned to reduce the risk of bias?
**Level of interest**
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An article of importance in its field

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