

#### **Additional file 4.** Postoperative SOFA score and RBCs age

We calculated the postoperative Sepsis related Organ Failure (SOFA) scores [1] and analyzed the relationship with RBCs ages. The total number of transfused RBCs and the oldest age of the transfused RBCs showed significant correlations with the postoperative highest SOFA scores.

	<i>r</i>	<i>P</i> -value
Amount of transfused RBCs	0.43	<0.001
Oldest age of transfused RBCs	0.18	<0.001
after removing the effect of the transfusion amount	0.1	0.002
Mean age of transfused RBCs	0.003	0.933
after removing the effect of the transfused amount	0.03	0.39

#### Reference

1. Vincent JL, Moreno R, Takala J, Willatts S, De Mendonca A, Bruining H, Reinhart CK, Suter PM, Thijs LG: **The SOFA (Sepsis-related Organ Failure Assessment) score to describe organ dysfunction/failure. On behalf of the Working Group on Sepsis-Related Problems of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine.** *Intensive care medicine* 1996, **22**(7):707-710.