

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Procalcitonin as a predictor of moderate to severe acute respiratory distress syndrome after cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass: a study protocol for a prospective cohort study
AUTHORS	Chen, Han; Cheng, Zhang-Bo; Yu, Rong-Guo

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Ali Dabbagh, MD Professor, Fellowship in Cardiac Anesthesiology, Director, Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellowship Program Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
REVIEW RETURNED	20-Aug-2014

- The reviewer completed the checklist but made no further comments.

REVIEWER	Imdad Ahmed Yale school of Medicine USA
REVIEW RETURNED	13-Sep-2014

- The reviewer completed the checklist but made no further comments.

REVIEWER	Ahmad Darwazah Ramallah and Makassed Hospital Department of Cardiac Surgery
REVIEW RETURNED	26-Sep-2014

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The only materials available for review is the protocol. The release of procalcitonin is part of the immune reaction taking place during open heart surgery. As mentioned in the introduction, that the level of procalcitonin is affected by various factors including cross clamping and reperfusion injury. The study protocol did not specify which type of surgery is included. Performing surgery on isolated CABG is different from e.g valve surgery.....</p> <p>I do suggest to do standardization of factors which may affect procalcitonin level especially type of surgery.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer Name Ahmad Darwazah

The only materials available for review is the protocol.

The release of procalcitonin is part of the immune reaction taking place during open heart surgery. As mentioned in the introduction, that the level of procalcitonin is affected by various factors including cross clamping and reperfusion injury.

The study protocol did not specify which type of surgery is included.

Performing surgery on isolated CABG is different from e.g valve surgery.....

I do suggest to do standardization of factors which may affect procalcitonin level especially type of surgery.

Response: subgroup analysis will be performed to illustrate the affection of different types of surgery.