

## 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

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| <b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b> | Study protocol for a prospective, single-centre, randomized, controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of ischaemia-free liver transplantation (IFLT) in the treatment of end-stage liver disease   |
| <b>AUTHORS</b>             | Huang, Changjun; Huang, Shanzhou; Tang, Yunhua; Zhao, Qiang; Wang, Dongping; Ju, Weiqiang; Yang, Lu; Zhang, Jian; Wu, Linwei; Chen, Maogen; Zhang, Zhiheng; Zhu, Zebin; Wang, Linhe; Zhu, Caihui; Zhang, Yixi; Sun, Chengjun; Xiong, Wei; Shen, Yuekun; Chen, Xiaoxiang; Ma, Yi; Hu, Anbin; Zhu, Xiaofeng; Rong, Jian; Cai, Changjie; Guo, Zhiyong; He, Xiaoshun |

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

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| <b>REVIEWER</b>        | Peter Friend<br>University of Oxford, UK<br><br>Own research and spin-out company operate in broadly the same space, but no direct conflicts of interest |
| <b>REVIEW RETURNED</b> | 22-Dec-2019  |

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| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b> | This randomised controlled clinical trial is the logical next step following the original description of the ischaemia-free liver transplantation procedure by the same group. The investigators present a clearly-written and comprehensive protocol that addresses the technical, clinical, statistical, logistic and ethical demands of the study.<br>The investigators are to be congratulated on developing an ambitious technical procedure that avoids the donor liver being exposed to either ischemia or hypothermia, and for designing a randomised trial which will test the level of benefit that this confers. |
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| <b>REVIEWER</b>        | Gavin Pettigrew<br>University of Cambridge |
| <b>REVIEW RETURNED</b> | 22-Dec-2019                                |

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| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b> | The review is generally a thorough and structured description of their trial protocol. It could however be improved substantially by addressing the English language flaws and I would strongly recommend review and re-editing by a native English language speaker. |
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## VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

### Reviewer # 1

Comment: Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': Own research and spin-out company operate in broadly the same space, but no direct conflicts of interest.

This randomised controlled clinical trial is the logical next step following the original description of the ischemia-free liver transplantation procedure by the same group. The investigators present a clearly-written and comprehensive protocol that addresses the technical, clinical, statistical, logistic and ethical demands of the study.

The investigators are to be congratulated on developing an ambitious technical procedure that avoids the donor liver being exposed to either ischemia or hypothermia, and for designing a randomised trial which will test the level of benefit that this confers.

Response: Thank you for your positive comments for our work. It's a great pleasure for us to gained your recognition. We have no conflict of interests and stated 'None' in the 'competing interests' part.

### Reviewer # 2

Comment: Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None

The review is generally a thorough and structured description of their trial protocol. It could however be improved substantially by addressing the English language flaws and I would strongly recommend review and re-editing by a native English language speaker.

Response: Thank you for your comments. We have no conflict of interests and stated 'None' in the 'competing interests' part according to your suggestion. In addition, we have re-edited the manuscript with the help of a English language editing service company.