## 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)	Minimally invasive versus conventional sternotomy for mitral valve repair: protocol for a multi-centre randomised controlled trial (UK Mini Mitral)
AUTHORS	Maier, Rebecca; Kasim, Adetayo; Zacharias, Joseph; Vale, Luke;
	Graham, Richard; Walker, Antony; Laskawski, Grzegorz;
	Deshpande, Ranjit; Goodwin, Andrew; Kendall, Simon; Murphy,
	Gavin; Zamvar, Vipin; Pessotto, Renzo; Lloyd, Clinton; Dalrymple-
	Hay, Malcolm; Casula, Roberto; Vohra, Hunaid; Ciulli, Franco;
	Caputo, Massimo; Stoica, Serban; Baghai, Max; Niranjan,
	Gunaratnam; Punjabi, Prakash; Wendler, Olaf; Marsay, Leanne;
	Fernandez-Garcia, Cristina; Modi, Paul; Kirmani, Bilal; Pullan, Mark;
	Muir, Andrew; Pousios, Dimitrios; Hancock, Helen; Akowuah, Enoch

This article was not externally reviewed at BMJ Open. Protocols that have been independently assessed prior to submission to BMJ Open are usually fast-tracked to publication on the grounds that further substantial changes will not be possible. This independent assessment will usually be external, independent review for both a substantial grant award from a non-commercial or government funder and ethics approval.