

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52952

Date: 23-07-2025

Title: Optimizing preoperative anemia management in Moroccan surgical patients: A simplified multimodal intervention Trial

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	■			
Techn. Quality		■		
Clarity		■		
Significance	■			

Reviewer Name: Shashi Prakash

Date: 23-07-2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

This trial provides a contextually appropriate and feasible solution to preoperative anemia in low-resource environments. The streamlined multimodal intervention had statistically and clinically significant hemoglobin and transfusion benefit, indicating high utility for implementation in usual surgical care in Morocco and similar environments. Its pragmatic trial design and robust adherence rates increase its translational utility.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Detailed Reviewer's Report

- The introduction precisely states the significance of the management of preoperative anemia and its consequences on surgical outcomes. The introduction identifies the burden of anemia, particularly in low-resource settings such as Morocco. Consider inserting more current references (e.g., WHO or international ERAS guidelines) and stating clearly the study aim towards the end of the introduction in one or two lines for better focus.
- In methodology the process is clearly described and feasible, indicating that the research was well-planned to mimic real-world problems. The inclusion and exclusion criteria are reasonable, and the intervention description is comprehensive. The randomization process, however, requires more detail—how was it performed, and how was allocation concealed, if at all? Additionally, indicate whether the study was registered and which ethics committee approved it, and the approval number.
- The findings are well-presented and demonstrate obvious differences between intervention and control groups. The tables are helpful and support the text. The intervention made an obvious effect on hemoglobin levels and decreased transfusion requirements, which is clinically significant. Nevertheless, inserting graphs (e.g., bar charts of Hb change or pie charts of adherence) will make the results more convenient to visualize. Also, report if any negative effects of oral iron were noted briefly.
- In discussion the reasoning demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of how the findings stand in comparison to previous research. The comparative literature included is an added strength. Nevertheless, the section is somewhat too lengthy and sometimes redundant. It can be improved by recapitulating main results briefer. Furthermore, explain study limitations more explicitly—such as lack of blinding, fairly small sample size, or non-random allocation in some instances—and how they could influence generalizability.
- The conclusion clearly states the significance of the findings and clinical application well. It might be more effective if it even briefly hinted at scaling up or how the intervention might be added to the current surgical protocols. Do not repeat all results; state what your findings imply for patient care and policy.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

- Suggestion: The conclusion section must be brief and to the point. Include 1–2 lines regarding the prospect of incorporation into national guidelines or ERAS protocols in analogous settings.
- The tables are helpful but may improve with more descriptive titles and uniform format. Table 6 is a good addition that frames the study within a broader literature. Including a brief summary or legend for each table would allow readers to understand the content at a glance. Adding a supplementary file with the educational material provided to patients would be a good idea.
- Enhance table structure and captions. Add legends to explain abbreviations. Provide supplementary appendix containing educational leaflets or protocol flow.
- This research is particularly relevant for low-resource surgical environments and provides a straightforward, effective solution to preoperative anemia. It is well-designed and practical for more widespread application. With slight revisions in language, organization, and reporting clarity, the manuscript will be internationally acceptable and can be a valuable addition to the literature.