Reviewer's report

**Title:** A Randomized, Placebo Controlled, Trial of Preoperative Sustained Release Betamethasone Plus Non-Controlled Intraoperative Ketorolac or Fentanyl on Pain After Diagnostic Laparoscopy or Laparoscopic Tubal Ligation

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**Reviewer:** Andrew R. Willan

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

**Compulsory Revisions**

1. Methods, last paragraph: the authors should indicate that the tests were two-sided.

2. Results, first paragraph, and Table 1: significance levels should not be used to compare the randomized treatment groups with respect to baseline factors. Since the groups are randomized (the 8 "lost" patients notwithstanding), any difference has to be due to chance. Statistical inference is not important in these comparisons, because it is as much about sample size as it is about observed differences. What is important is are the differences between treatment groups likely to affect the comparison with respect to the outcomes such as pain? Small trivial differences might be statistically significant because of large sample sizes, or, more likely in this case, important differences might not be significant because of small sample sizes. Also, for Table 1, it is variances not S.E.M. that should be displayed, because we're interested in the distribution in each arm of the observations, not inference about the means.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.