Reviewer’s report

Title: Laparoscopic versus conventional appendectomy - a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Version: 2 Date: 11 October 2010

Reviewer: Stefan Sauerland

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have revised their manuscript in many different aspects, and I thank them for their efforts. However, the problems addressed in my initial comments No. 6 and 8 are still not fully solved.

In their reply to my comment No. 6, the authors state that "absence of blindness may influence the results" on pain. Rather than speculating on this issue, I would have preferred a simple sensitivity analysis comparing the results between blinded and open trials. This would allow an empirical assessment on how strong blinding does influence pain results.

As described in my initial comment No. 8, I feel that results on operating time should be rounded to one decimal place or full minutes. It is correct to extract precise data from the primary studies, but it is statistical overprecision to report pooled results for operating time with two decimals places, because nobody measures operating time in seconds (0.01 minutes = 0.6 seconds).

As all my other comments have been addressed, I recommend the manuscript for publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests