Reviewer’s report

Title: Obesity is a Negative Predictor of Success after Surgery for Complex Anal Fistula

Version: 1 Date: 13 March 2011

Reviewer: C. Neal Ellis

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In the manuscript the authors state the follow-up is a mean of 6 months with a range of 3-18 months. What is the median follow-up? This should be used instead of the mean. Additionally, it is generally considered that 12 months of follow-up is required to determine the results of fistula surgery. The short follow-up should be included in the discussion.

2. It appears from the table that co-morbidities, including diabetes, were more common in the obese group. Diabetes has been reported to be associated with increased risk of recurrence after sphincter preserving fistula management. I feel that the presence of diabetes should be included in the univariate and multivariate analysis and the result included in the manuscript.

Minor essential revisions
1. Can the authors provide continence data on the patients in this series. In the introduction they state that flap repair has been reported to result in incontinence in a significant number of patients. Can the authors present any data on this topic?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest