Reviewer’s report

Title: Laparoscopy-assisted posterior low anterior resection of rectal cancer

Version: 3
Date: 17 June 2014

Reviewer: Andrew Beggs

Reviewer’s report:

The authors are to be congratulated on a well written paper on Laparoscopic posterior LAR. In particular the figures are excellent and enhance the paper. The paper is suitable for publication, and I have a few minor points to enhance the manuscript:

Minor essential revisions:

1) Page 3 - I would disagree with the authors that the effectiveness of laparoscopic rectal surgery is under question. The MRC CLASSIC trial has shown the oncological outcomes are similar to open - this should be reflected in the manuscript
2) I think the authors should emphasise in their introduction that their described technique is for low stage rectal tumours, as T3/T4 tumours would still be dealt with in the normal way
3) p7 line 148 - "an anal canal was placed from the anus" - this makes no sense and should be revised
4) p12 line 147 - "but also can handle certain pelvic floor complications which appear when separating bowel under endoscopy, such as pelvic floor bleeding" - it is not clear what the authors mean by this - please revise

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests’