Reviewer's report

Title: Botulinum Toxin Injection versus Lateral Internal Sphincterotomy in the treatment of Chronic Anal Fissure: a non-randomized controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2004

Reviewer: Wolfgang Jost

Reviewer's report:

General

The paper presented is an interesting one and a worthy contribution to the numerous publications on botulinum toxin the treatment of anal fissure.

It makes a lot of sense to compare the effect of botulinum toxin with a postoperative effect, more so since lateral sphincterectomy is still being considered the treatment of choice, and since botulinum toxin has not yet been approved by the authorities for that kind of indication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The discussion part should be more condensed.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

One would wish for larger collectives of course, but this shouldn't lead to refusal of the paper.

It is quite astonishing that there is only one paper to be cited from the last three years.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No