Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of hiatal hernia on histological pattern of non-erosive reflux disease

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2004

Reviewer:eamonn M quigley

Reviewer's report:

General
Interesting, if not surprising, observations. The relationships between HH and severe forms of GERD are well known. What is of interest here is the suggestion that lesser forms of esophagitis and "microscopic" esophagitis, in particular, are associated with HH. The numbers are small and pH studies were not performed; the authors cannot address the critical issue, therefore: does a HH predict those NERD patients who have microscopic esophagitis, positive pH tests for acid esposure and an excellent response to PPI? Will the absence of an HH indicate that the patient has "functional heartburn", will not respond to a PPI and may do poorly with anti-reflux surgery?

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. What is meant by "cross-fashion" manner, in page 4?
2. Was any attempt made to power the study, or how did the authors decide on the numbers of patients?
3. Please check all refs for spelling of authors
4. Was any attempt made to define whether the hernias were reducing or non-reducing?
5. Figs 1 and 2 could be omitted

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None