Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Commonly used bowel preparations have significant and different effects upon cell proliferation in the colon: a pilot study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 July 2008

**Reviewer:** Frank Simmen

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors have provided an interesting manuscript that suggests a potential caveat in studies of biopsied colonic mucosa for proliferative status. Namely, their results suggest that type of laxative used to purge the bowel may itself affect proliferative status of colonic epithelium.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

In general, the results that suggest differences between Klean-Prep and Picolax are the most convincing; however, it is unclear why either group does not differ from unprepared controls? One wonders if there was some sort of random bias introduced during allocation of individuals to each laxative group that might explain the results.

Secondly, the manuscript would be strengthened by greater numbers of individuals per group, greater numbers of crypts per individual, and an examination of effects of laxatives on a second distinct region of the colon.

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

**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