Reviewer's report

Title: Using an oblique incident laser beam to measure the optical properties of stomach mucosa/submucosa tissue

Version: 1 Date: 26 May 2008

Reviewer: Landulfo Silveira Jr.

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Major Compulsory Revisions.

The “Theory” subsection in Material and Methods should be placed in Introduction section.

The paragraph starting with “It is obvious that using …” needs to be more clarified.

The first paragraph in “Sample Preparation” subsection has repetitive parts and need to be re-written in order to become more clear.

How the thickness of samples were measured?

“Tissue samples was” ????

The first paragraph of the subsection “Measurements of diffuse reflectance” is confusing. I recommend to use a table to indicate laser source and wavelength instead of explaining along the text.

In order to use the Student t-test one needs to test for normality first.

The first paragraph of Results section has information about Methodology. I suggest to rewrite this paragraph.

Please indicate the coefficients in cm-1 instead of mm-1.

Authors use the word “obvious” in several parts of the text. Scientific reports should not be so emphatic.

Some paragraphs are too long: the 2nd paragraph on page 6 ends in the middle of page 7.

It is not clear how the image from the CCD was converted to the optical properties. Is there a scattering pattern such as interference? How this image is fit in the equations?

In general, the whole text needs to be more clear and the experimental part should be described with more detail and concise explanation.

Results are not clear and not linked to the objectives, and the discussion is weakly binded with the results from the experimental data.

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