Reviewer's report

Title: What are the risk factors of colonoscopic perforation?

Version: 2 Date: 13 June 2009

Reviewer: Anthony Teoh

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Results section
- A no. of other risk factors for analysis could be included for analysis: Previous operations, pelvic operations, pelvic inflammatory diseases, pelvic radiotherapy, diverticular disease, sigmoid volvulus, peritoneal dialysis, pseudoobstruction, presence of intra-abdominal adhesions, presence of colonic malignancy and co-morbidities

Discussion
- It is a bit alarming that the overall perforation rate has increased significantly in this study as compared to your last review. How does the outcomes of this study compare to your last study? Any potential contributing factors to increased perforations? Can you discuss in the discussion section

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods section
- What is the definition of emergency endoscopy? Do you give bowel prep to these patients?
- For the sedation group, only propofol and fentanyl was used. Did any patients received other sedatives e.g. benzodiazepams. Do you think that the choice of drugs for sedation affects the endoscopist’s perception of pain experienced by the patient?
- Further, was propofol during your last review from 1999 to 2007? Do you think this could possible have affected the overall perforation rates?
- 2L of PEG as bowel preparation may not be adequate in some patient. Was there documentation of the quality of bowel prep? Is this different between the perforated and non-perforated groups?

Results section
- 6/15 perforations due to trainees that is quite a high percentage, is there any explanation? Your no. in colonoscopies seems to have grown throughout the pass few yrs. Are more colonoscopies being performed by trainees?
- What is the proportion of perforations that are sustained from diagnostics and therapeutic colonoscopies. Is the difference significant?
- Some suggestions to table 1, the endoscopic procedure should be grouped into whether it is diagnostic or therapeutic and the possible mechanism of perforation is probably better grouped according to whether it is mechanical or due to a procedure (hot/cold biopsy, polypectomy).

- What are the P values and odds ratio of the factors on multivariate analysis, pls list out in table

**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 have no disclosures to make.