Reviewer’s report

Title: Radiation Dose Reduction at a Price: the Effectiveness of a Pediatric Male Gonadal Shield During Helical CT Scans

Version: 1 Date: 20 November 2006

Reviewer: Anne Grethe G Jurik

Reviewer’s report:

Radiation protection is important and therefore also knowledge about the radiation doses especially in children.

Comments to the method and discussion: The described method for dose estimation is not comparable to that used in somewhat similar studies (refs. 7 and 18). Only the “radiation” within the shield is measured and the dose is therefore not influenced by “testicular material”. This has at least to be discussed. Also the results of the direct irradiation at the site of the testis has to be related to the results in ref. 18 where the dose was only reduced by a factor about 14.

The measurement value for radiation is not constant. Both mR and mGy is used which may confuse some readers.

Tables: The percentages listed in Table 3 are confusing. It is stated in table 4 that the doses are mGy values, but the results in ref 18 are converted to mSv and thereby not directly comparable.

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

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests