Reviewer's report

Title: Trabeculectomy with versus without Releasable Sutures for Glaucoma: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

Version: 2  Date: 5 January 2014

Reviewer: Andrew McNaught

Reviewer's report:

This is a novel and important systematic review. There is evidence that the authors have gone to some trouble to ensure comprehensive capture of any relevant studies, and to exclude bias. I think many glaucoma surgeons would agree with the key finding ie that releasable sutures clearly improve the safety of trabeculectomy surgery.

I think the MS could be substantially improved by the following:

The MS needs page, and, ideally, line numbers to aid the review process. On what is actually page 3, the line 'page 3' appears within the text of the 'Background' section: this needs correcting.

The use of the English language is reasonable, but given the absence of some punctuation, especially commas, the readability of the MS could be improved with the help of a native English-speaking sub-editor.

The 'Background' section is not comprehensive: for example, there is no mention of laser suture lysis, which is commonly used in both Europe and the US to improve the safety of trabeculectomy ie to avoid early hypotony: this technique should be discussed, though this reviewer agrees with the sentiments of the authors ie that releasable sutures are a preferred approach.

The comments on the risk of cataract development after trab may clearly be related to the length of follow-up available, and how the cataract are graded: this needs to be pointed out in the discussion.

There is a recent published study which covers a similar area ie that releasable sutures improve trab safety, and could be usefully cited:


Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.