Reviewer's report

Title: Randomised controlled single-blind study of conventional versus depot mydriatic drug delivery prior to cataract surgery [ISRCTN 78047760]

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2006

Reviewer: Anders Behndig

Reviewer's report:

General

The method of using a wick for mydriatic delivery prior to cataract surgery has been previously published by Ong-Tone in J Cataract Refract Surg 2003 29: 2060-2062, as also pointed out by the authors. The method was presented in 2002 at the ASCRS, also by Ong-Tone. To my knowledge, this is the first randomized trial evaluating the method, and the results regarding the initial mydriatic effect are encouraging.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

One disadvantage of the study is that it does not evaluate the persistence of the mydriatic effect during surgery, or the postoperative duration of the mydriatic effect. I think these factors should be briefly mentioned in the paper. Also, the method for measuring the pupil size could be commented on, especially the exactness of this method. Why was, for example, a photographic method not used?

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests