Reviewer's report

Title: Glaucoma following congenital cataract surgery - the role of early surgery, posterior capsulotomy and intraocular lens implantation

Version: 1 Date: 21 June 2007

Reviewer: Scott Fraser

Reviewer's report:

General

Glaucoma following congenital cataract surgery - the role of early surgery, posterior capsulotomy and intraocular lens implantation.

General points

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? Yes
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

Specific points

Page 2

‘…………..and to investigate potential risk factors for glaucoma in our case series, including early surgery, posterior capsulotomy and intraocular lens implantation.’

This is meant to be the purpose of the study rather than a description of potential findings.

‘Early bilateral cataract surgery is associated with a marked increase in risk of AG…..’

Are the authors suggesting that bilateral surgery is a cause of glaucoma?

‘Our data suggest that an intact posterior capsule and an IOL may both be associated with a lower rate of AG…..’
This may be a quibble but if the posterior capsule is intact and an IOL present then this is not aphakic glaucoma?

Page 4

‘The most recent of these studies reported….‘

This is best put into the discussion section

Page 7

‘Two subjects developed AG from the unilateral group, with onset at 2 months and 12 months respectively……’

Does this mean postoperatively or age at diagnosis?

Page 11

‘We have corroborated previous data suggesting ..that bilateral lensectomy before the age of one month markedly increases the risk of developing subsequent glaucoma….’

Is it also possible that children who have their cataracts picked up and operated upon early intrinsically have eyes that are more prone to glaucoma – e.g. very subtle anterior segment anomalies?

Page 12

‘The data in our study suggests that an intact posterior capsule and an IOL may both be associated with a lower rate of AG……’

The authors mention earlier that they do not put an IOL into children under 4 months of age. If glaucoma was more severe in children less than four months then it would appear that lack of an IOL was associated with glaucoma when it possibly was not.

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

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore) nil
What next?: Accept after minor essential 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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'