Reviewer's report

**Title:** Pulse oximetry in the newborn: is the left hand pre- or postductal?

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 January 2010

**Reviewer:** Nalini Singhal

**Reviewer's report:**

How long was the saturation monitor applied in each site. Which site did you apply the monitor to initially, was that a random order or a predetermined order.

Not sure of the purpose of your study. You state that post ductal saturation monitoring is a standard of care. Were you doing the study to determine if additional sites can be used for saturation monitoring in the first 4 hours. If so what is your time cut off for using other sites? Shunting through the ductus usually does not occur for 4 hours in term babies.

Table 1 has in the first column p0.05-p0.95, not sure what that implies.

It is interesting that the 34 babies you recorded before 15 minutes also had similar saturations.

Discussion about the modelling and logistic regression needs to be clarified. It is confusing to read.

In your summary you talk about pulse oximetry being a powerful tool for CHD yet these were the babies you excluded from your study.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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 I have no competing interests.