Reviewer's report

Title: A double blind, randomised placebo controlled trial of topical 2% viscous lidocaine in improving oral intake in children with painful infectious mouth conditions.

Version: 1 Date: 30 September 2011

Reviewer: Pentti Alanen

Reviewer's report:

After reading the description my comment is that the study design seems to be good. I have two questions to be clarified by the team.

1) From the methodical point of view, is it correct to include the 20 pilot children into the final analyses?

2) The age distribution of the subjects is quite large. It may happen that a randomisation without stratification may make the groups as very different. Is there any reason to believe that age could be a (strong?) confounder? If not, my opinion is that the study design is acceptable.