Reviewer's report

Title: Convective burn from use of hairdryer for heel warming prior to the heel prick test - a case report

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2011

Reviewer: Francis Veyckemans

Reviewer's report:

This is a dramatic and interesting case report illustrating the consequences of a bad clinical practice.

* Minor essential revision:
- Please give a reference concerning the gel that is able to heat to 42°C (Discussion, §3, L2 and §6, last sentence). Is it S-Caine, a local anaesthetic gel?
- last §: what precise procedure would the authors recommend for a CBS?

* Discretionary revision:
The reviewer suggests that the authors gives some more information on the way the hairdryer was actually used. This should of course not encourage readers to use it in another way but highlight how sensitive the newborn’s skin is. The following informations would be useful to know:
- for how long was the hairdryer used?
- how closed was it to the baby’s skin during this period of time?
- was any local anesthetic cream applied to the baby’s heel before warming? For example, some nurses use a hairdryer to accelerate the local anaesthetic effect of EMLA cream.
- was there any immediate signs of skin injury visible? According to the way the history is written, no injury was immediately visible to the mother and midwife and it took about one hour to uncover the cause of the baby’s distress.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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