Reviewer’s report

Title: Validation of a transcutaneous bilirubin meter in Mongolian neonates: comparison with total serum bilirubin

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2013

Reviewer: Thor Willy Ruud Hansen

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written paper with appropriate analyses and statistics. Unfortunately, the paper suffers from two rather important weaknesses: i) the number of patients is quite low, certainly when compared to previous studies of instruments for transcutaneous measurement of bilirubin, and ii) the majority of patients have been sampled at an age older than that at which significant neonatal jaundice is mostly seen. Thus, <40% of the patients have been measured during the first week of life, the time at which TSB has usually peaked and is on its way down. The authors need to argue for why this distribution of their (relatively few) patients is particularly relevant to the Mongolian setting. This is all the more important because TcB instruments have been tested in Asian populations before, so we need to learn why it is still of interest do do one more study in this particular population.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.