Reviewer's report

Title: Retinopathy of prematurity and risk factors: a prospective cohort study

Version: Date: 6 February 2005

Reviewer: William V Good

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting paper which confirms certain findings about ROP, and which raises the possibility that postnatal steroids could be associated with ROP occurrence. The authors have done a good job of avoiding speculation about postnatal steroids. The paper introduces the reader to the literature on this subject very well.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The authors should state something about IRB approval or process in the methods section. It is advisable to remind the reader that entry criteria for this study differ from the most widely quoted articles on the subject of ROP; i.e., in this study it was infants < 1500 gms; in CRYO-ROP it was < 1251 grams. The use of one investigator only, to do all the ROP examinations is standard of care, but not ideal in a research effort. It would have been better to have included occasional confirmatory examinations, etc. There is nothing that can be done about this now, but it represents a design "flaw" in the study, and something should be said about this in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
none

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.