Reviewer's report

Title: WHO Systematic Review of Prevalence of Chronic Pelvic Pain: a neglected reproductive health morbidity

Version: 2 Date: 16 October 2005

Reviewer: John F Steege

Reviewer's report:

General
This report is a most complete review of the world's literature on the prevalence of pelvic pain, dysmenorrhea, and dyspareunia. While it serves to note that these disorders are prevalent, the paucity of methodologically sound studies points out the meager data base upon which these prevalence estimates are based. Further, there is clearly room to explore the relationships of these disorders to other pain problems. A few clinical observation studies note overlaps among different pain disorders (irritable bowel syndrome, interstitial cystitis, tempero-mandibular joint disorder, pelvic pain, etc), but there are no population based or community based studies of the relationships among these entities. A better understanding of the epidemiology of these disorders would facilitate our understanding of somato-sensory disorders in general.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The tables should rank-order the studies according to how many of the five selection criteria were met. A complete bibliography should be added, and reference numbers included with the citations in the tables. This is essential if this is to serve as a reference document for those interested in this field.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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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 of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.