Reviewer's report

Title: Circumcision during manhood initiation rituals in the Eastern Cape, South Africa: a prepost intervention evaluation

Version: 2 Date: 19 January 2008

Reviewer: Anthony Caldamone

Reviewer's report:

The authors have produced an excellent report on a reasonable population size. Discretionary Revisions: The introduction is a historical article in and of itself. As interesting as it is, it adds little to the scientific paper. It would be useful as a whole separate article. It can be shortened to a single paragraph without detracting from the substance of the article. Minor Essential Revisions: The authors compare their results to that of other series on similar population circumcized in a similar tradition, however, it would be helpful if their results were compared to a western population of traditional newborns circumcized by trained physicians or for that matter mohels. Right or wrong, this is the standard that the results needs to be compared to for validation.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'