Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparing etoricoxib and celecoxib for preemptive analgesia for acute postoperative pain in patients undergoing arthroscopic anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction: A randomized controlled trial.

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2010

Reviewer: Nikolaos Gougoulias

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript has improved and the authors answered the reviewers’ remarks. I, still, question whether the study adds an important piece of information in the orthopaedic literature. Does it really matter if we gave our patients etoricoxib or celecoxib? Is one dose of a cox-2 inhibitor enough to cover the postoperative period regarding pain relief, in clinical practice?

The use of spinal anaesthesia is a factor that could influence the validity of results. The authors state that ‘patients had recovered from the spinal anaesthesia’, however, how can we judge full recovery? What is there was still a degree of hyposensitivity for some time? Ideally the study should be performed in patients undergoing surgery under general anaesthesia.

Also, I still have concerns about the use of the english language in several occasions. If the manuscript was accepted, some corrections regarding the english language should be made prior to publication.

Tables: It would be best if in the tables the authors use one decimal rather than two (eg. 43.3 instead of 43.29). Also they should state clearly if some columns contain percetages (to use the % symbol).

I leave the decision of acceptance at the discretion of the editor.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.