Reviewer’s report

Title: Mini-laparoscopic Versus Laparoscopic Approach to Appendectomy

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Reviewer: Prof Harry Sax

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

This is a good report that realizes its own shortcoming. You can’t randomize two techniques based on the level of experience of the surgeon. The interesting paper would be to randomize the conventional approach, which I assume is 2.5mm and a 12mm to needleoscopic, but using the same highly trained surgeons.

Did all the other surgeons use a standardized technique? Were discharges delayed due to timing of the case? (Were the "experienced surgeons" on weekends and nights?)

How were op times defined? Most straightforward lap appys take 25 min skin to skin.

How durable are the instruments? This could be a cost issue down the road.

A good paper showing it can be done.

Competing interests:

None declared.