Reviewer's report

**Title:** Long term outcome and quality of life after open incisional hernia repair - light versus heavy weight meshes

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 31 January 2011

**Reviewer:** Jochen Grommes

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Long term outcome and quality of life after open incisional hernia repair – light versus heavy weight meshes

Mesh repair of incisional hernia is well established. However, it remains unclear what mesh is preferable. Low weight meshes should reduce pain and discomfort after hernia repair in comparison to the “older”, heavy weight meshes. Therefore, the aim of this study is the comparison of these two different meshes in along term follow up.

Major criticism of this study is the very small number of patients. You can not expect a significant difference in quality of life if you compare only 12 patients in each group. Consequently, I do not believe that this manuscript in its current presentation can add new information to hernia surgery.

Results: Are the authors able to include more patients? Since the study included patients from 1996/1997 and the next twelve patients in 1998, it should possible to include more patients. Results of ultrasound (seroma?) should be presented in the results.


“This lack of difference in the quality of life is an interesting finding…..” Sorry, but you can not expect significant difference in your study with 24 patients.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.