Reviewer’s report

Title: Tension of knotted surgical sutures shows tissue specific rapid loss

Version: 2 Date: 1 September 2011

Reviewer: Nicole Bouvy

Reviewer’s report:

This is an important and very innovative way to look at suture strength and the influence of these strengths on tissue recovery, collagen and protein loss. My advice on publication is accept with only minor revisions. It would be interesting to perform the same experiments with a running suture setting although in the discussion the authors state that this will be a hard model. This will improve the clinical relevance of the article since stomach, bowel and fascia seem the most important clinical healing sites.

Although the authors suggest that this measurement will be hard to perform with a running suture it seems very interesting to investigate running fascia sutures and see changes over time in pressure and collagen/protein ratio.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? yes
3. Are the data sound? solid
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? absolutely
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? indeed
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? absolutely

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests