Reviewer's report

Title: Modified Alvarado Scoring System as a diagnostic tool for Acute Appendicitis at Bugando Medical Centre, Mwanza, Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2010

Reviewer: Robert McKay

Reviewer's report:

This is a study of the MASS for 127 patients that underwent appendectomy. They did not look at the actual number nor did they look at the score of those who were suspect to have appendicitis. They also had a very high 33% neg appy rate. This is not in keeping with the literature of use of the CT nor clinical watching.

If they had larger numbers and were able to determine the probability of appendicitis per gender, this may be worth while. If the data was reviewed, there is a significant difference in the score per gender as well. An arbitray point of a score of 7 was chosen, and in all other reviews, this number allows the lowest false negative but still not perfect.

should determine the probability of the MASS per score and outcome to address the raw data.

This paper adds nothing that was not already in the literature and in fact the numbers are too small to be of use.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'