Reviewer's report

**Title:** Intraoperative parathyroid hormone assay during focused parathyroidectomy: the importance of 20 minutes measurement

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 3 July 2013

**Reviewer:** peter goretzki

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revision:

The authors have raised an interesting question concerning intraoperative parathyroid measurements (ioPTH) (value of 20 post excision serum measurement of PTH) in primary hyperparathyroidism.

They found 6.4% of patients do benefit from this measurement.

But altogether 32/188 patients still had elevated serum PTH levels 5 minutes after excision of a single parathyroid adenoma.

We would urge the authors to describe these patients specifically (how many had positive/negative localisation studies, when compared to the 156 other patients; what about the patient age in slowly decreasing PTH levels ? compared to patient age in fast decreasing ioPTH levels, what about the 5` value compared to the 0` value in "late decreasing PTH" patients (was an inadequate peak demonstrable, as discussed by the authors ?); etc. From scientific point of view you should describe all these patients more thoroughly!

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

no competing interest