Reviewer's report

Title: Blind Loop: Rare but Important Surgical Complication

Version: 2 Date: 27 April 2014

Reviewer: Christopher Young

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe a ECF from a blind 15cm segment of SB in a Crohns patient with extensive previous surgery. I am not so sure on the rarity of this entity. I am more concerned that the length and syntax of the case report needs addressing. I will give some examples of how it could be improved.

1. "Surgical complications worldwide are dreaded by both patients and physicians alike." Dreaded is not much used. Suggest: Surgical complication invoke dread in both patients and physicians worldwide.

2. Para 2. Delete "our patient is" and just start with A 65 year old ...

3. "After receiving a full explanation of the risks, benefits and" change to After explaining the risks, ...

4. Para 4. Delete "tedious"

5. Please complete or add that the patient recovered well at or after para 5, and before Review, not in the discussion, as the report is disjointed, and the reader has to wait for a few para's before finding out what happened.

6. "Our patient is perhaps "fortunate" that this segment of bowel fistulized. Without the formation of this fistula, it is conceivable that this blind loop of bowel would have become infected and perforated into the peritoneal cavity with resulting peritonitis, potentially with much more grave consequences." These 2 sentences make no sense. Saying one complication is better than another does not prove the other worse complication would have occurred. Conceiving is not causation. Many blind limbs actually never cause a problem. Also, Crohns rarely perforates and commonly fistulizes. I would just delete these 2 sentences.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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