Reviewer’s report

Title: Enhanced Susceptibility to Infections in a Diabetic Wound Healing Model

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2007

Reviewer: warren garner

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting study that addresses the importance of infection during wound healing. Use a new animal model that may be useful to others.

Overall interesting manuscript with too many unanswered questions.
1. Why such high bacterial counts in diabetic animals, can the authors do PMN or myeloperoxidase staining of their wound sections to determine immune derangements?
2. There is no discussion of the limited importance of pathogenic effects of the author’s proposed primary pathogen, Staph Aureus
3. What were the serum glucoses during the experimental period? How were they controlled?
4. Were there not differences between contraction rates of diabetic wound with or without Staph or are the numbers to small to note the differences? Similarly, re epithelialization rates in inoculated wound in non-diabetic wounds. They need to do a power analysis before making their conclusions of no difference.
5. There is too much discussion of Staph in the INTRO considering its limited effects for the study
6. The discussion is mostly restating the authors findings rather than putting them into context.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'