Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of Conversion of Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy to Open Surgery with Artificial Neural Networks

Version: 2 Date: 26 October 2008

Reviewer: Erik Nilsson

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. To analyse the importance of a study on conversion rate one has to know the selection used for laparoscopic procedures, i.e. the number of open cholecystectomies done during the study period. This information must be provided in the manuscript. Referring to a previous publication is inadequate.
2. Mode of admission is a parameter heavily influencing conversion rate. It is, therefore, surprising that 16% of patients in the testing set and 86% in the training set comprised emergency cases. The authors have to explain this difference. A conversion rate of 9% among emergency cases is at variance with previously published data.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.