Reviewer's report

Title: Laparoscopic versus Open Left Lateral Segmentectomy

Version: 3 Date: 17 June 2009

Reviewer: Peter Schemmer

Reviewer's report:

Revised Manuscript:
Carswell et al.: “Laparoscopic versus Open Left Lateral Segmentectomy”:

Thank you for incorporating the comments in the manuscript. There’s still two points to be addressed:

a. Methods:
The following sentences/paragraphs belong to the “Results” section and therefore should be replaced:

“Patients presented with either solid lesions, symptomatic liver cysts or liver abscesses, within segments II/III.” and “There were no differences in the patient characteristics between the two groups (Table 1). Median patient age was 54 years (25 – 72). 50% of patients were men (n=10). The patients had similar American Society of Anaesthesiology (ASA) grading (I:II:III); 1:5:4 in the laparoscopic group and 2:6:2 in the open group. Indication for left lateral segmentectomy was malignant lesions in 50% of cases (n=10)."

b. Please provide the cost comparison between the groups. In a DRG-based system, it is always (also retrospectively) possible to have a cost analysis.

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.