Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for early recurrence after inguinal hernia repair

Version: 3 Date: 20 October 2009

Reviewer: Nicola Zampieri

Reviewer's report:

the manuscript has , in my opinion still some minor criticism.

Pag 3 lines 17-20: this sentence is redundant and not clear. I suggest to remove it

the distribution of age is still not clear. which is the age range?

how many patients has 18 years at surgery? how many patients has 78 years at surgery?

see tables! age range is 63 +/- 12 or 11....

Exclusion criteria are still not clear: i suggest- incisional hernia, death....

I suggest to change statistics as follows: St. analysis were carried out using..... (remove :...for 75 patients....) and put it into the results section.

Pag 5 lines 4-7: the older the patients....the earlier they had a hernia recurrence. .....Gender had no impact on onset of primary hernia or age at recurrence (0.5)!!!

this is not clear!!!most of patients are male and therefore this sentence could be interpreted as not correct!

did all patients received mesh technique?

What about incisional hernias? an exclusion criteria was incisional hernia. see pag 6 lines 7-8

Figure 1 B: THIS DATA IS NOT REPORTED INTO THE TEXT

Tables: the age range is still confused

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'