Reviewer's report

Title: Removal of urothelium affects bladder contractility and ATP but not NO release in rat urinary bladder

Version: 1 Date: 17 November 2009

Reviewer: Alison Brading

Reviewer's report:

This paper investigates the effects on bladder contractility of the ATP and NO than can be released from strips of rat bladder and the sources of these agents. A gentle swabbing of the urothelial side was used to remove the urothelial, but not sub-urothelial layer, and the effect on the contractility was found to be different from published results of others who used a surgical procedure that the authors believe re moves both the urothelial and sub-urothelial layers.

Major Compulsory Revision

Figure 1 I am not sure exactly what the authors are referring to when they say ‘deeper suburothelial layers’. The micrographs actually look as if a lot of what I would call the suburothelial layer is also removed. What is left seems to be just the muscle layer. This needs clarification. What is needed is a micrograph of a section prepared after surgical removal of the urothelium alongside the one after swabbing so that the two can be compared.

Minor Essential Revision

Results Section. This could be shortened by removing the unnecessary repetition of the methodology.

Figure 3 legend Line 2 Bladder. Line 3 ‘Transactional are’ Should this be Cross-sectional area?

Figure 5 Why are there three stars over the ATP released by carbachol from swabbed strips? The legend says this is not significantly different from baseline. Also the same problem for NO release – I think the stars are on the wrong columns. See also Fig 6.

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 competein interests