Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of surgical technique (open vs. laparoscopic) on pathological and long term functional outcomes following radical prostatectomy

Version: 3 Date: 3 October 2013

Reviewer: Phillip M Pierorazio

Reviewer’s report:

The authors, for the most part, addressed the issues brought up in the first review. There is one MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION which should be addressed.

The authors should be applauded for reporting very real positive surgical margin rates both overall and for pT2 disease. One of the revisions stated that nerve-sparing was performed at the discretion of the surgeon for oncologic control and patient preference. For LRP, the nerve sparing rate was much lower and the positive surgical margin rate much higher for pT2 disease. I am a supporter of minimally invasive RP (including laparoscopy), however this data certainly makes it seem like LRP is an inferior operation in terms of both cancer control and functional outcomes OR there is a major discrepancy between nerve-sparing reporting and margins. You would expect a very low margin rate if most LRP operations were wide resections of the NVB.

Please address this issue in the discussion to facilitate publication of this manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

none