Reviewer’s report

**Title:** 2-octyl cyanoacrylate versus reintervention for closure of urethrocutaneous fistulae after urethroplasty for hypospadias: a randomized controlled trial.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 25 August 2014

**Reviewer:** Walid Farhat

**Reviewer’s report:**

I congratulate the authors for bringing forward a new non-invasive therapeutic method to treat a common post-surgical complication: urethro-cutaneous fistula after hypospadias repair. Authors need to define what long-standing UCF? failed after surgery?

**Major revisions:**

How did they attach the edges of the orifice? (page 7 line 134): when the treatment was repeated three times did the patients have a foley in situ for 5 days (as mentioned on page 8, line 169). More details need to be added to this section.

Major concern I have about the data and how it is presented is that fistula occurrence is linked to the type of hypospadias and the dynamic nature of the tube created. Hence a tight repair (TIP) may cause a fistula and the correction of the fistula without addressing the distal narrowing may not be sufficient, for that reason I recommend that the authors briefly mention that the fistula repair is only one part of the issue and dealing or addressing the repaired urethra is mandatory. Authors may need to report on the total number of patients treated for hypospadias, describe the type of repair and link to the fistula (total number i.e. with no fistula) and then try to see if the treatment option is more successful when the narrowing was ruled out or type of repair. By presenting the data as suggested, the value of the work will be more diverse and helpful to guide the surgeons in their decision and more importantly, the success rate of the treatment offered may be also higher.

A statistician needs to look at the sample size, the power and the complication rate is not very accurate and thus the number of patients recruited is not clear.

What do the authors mean by congenital malformations on page 10, line 206.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest