Reviewer’s report

Title: Long term effects of micro-surgical testicular sperm extraction on androgen status in patients with non obstructive azoospermia

Version: 1 Date: 9 May 2005

Reviewer: Akira Tsujimura

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors described the outcome of micro TESE and the change of hormonal data after micro TESE for patients with NOA. They concluded that long-term androgen deficiency is a potential risk of TESE. This manuscript is basically interesting for clinical evaluation in this field but there are several problems to be published.

First of all, the aim of their study should be the only evaluation of hormonal data as the long-term follow up after TESE. Indeed, they did not pay attention to the outcome of TESE and pregnancy. I suggest that all of the sentences and data regarding the outcome of TESE and ICSI should be deleted. Also, factors predicting sperm retrieval and conception rates are not necessary in this manuscript.

Their surgical procedure was divided into micro TESE and microdissection TESE. It is better to explain differences of these two procedures clearly. Otherwise, readers would be confused. Also, follow-up hormonal data of micro TESE and microdissection TESE should be presented separately (Table 2). This table is the key data in their study.

What is secondary infertility? Is this NOA?

Pre-operative testosterone level (452 ng/dl) was much higher and testicular volume (31ml) was much larger than those presented in previous reports. Please discuss this point.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests