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: 14 May 2005

Reviewer: Nares Sukcharoen

Reviewer’s report:

General
The authors may probe the causes of androgen deficiency in the cases that have decreased testosterone and show some details of these cases whose testosterone drops significantly such as history and physical exam, severity of testicular biopsy, micro TESE vs microdissection TESE, histological diagnosis, etc. Are there any differences of these details between the decreased testosterone level group and unchanged testosterone level group. Because the cause may not be the microTESE itself. It may be the history of chemotherapy, history of testicular torsion or cryptorchidism which have gradually compromised the Leydigs cells function. In conclusion, there are many factors that may cause the decreased testosterone level. Micro TESE or microdissection TESE may be one of the contributing factor. It may need the larger sample size and do the multiple regression analysis of all the contributing factors to find the major contributing factor. From the limited data, the additional analysis on the cases that have decreased testosterone levels or compare to the unchanged testosterone level group may give us more informations about the cases who have more risk for androgen deficiency. These data may be helpful for physicians for counseling the patients.

Table 3 is not relevant to this study and should be deleted.
Table 4 is also not relevant to this study.

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

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'