Reviewer's report

Title: Percutaneous Needle Biopsy for indeterminate renal masses: A national survey of UK consultant urologists

Version: 1 Date: 29 April 2007

Reviewer: Ramaswamy Manikandan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions.

In the Results section the authors report that 325 responses were available for analysis. 139(43%) never used biopsy for indeterminate masses, 111(34%) always employed it and 75(23%) answered 'Yes' and 'No' and then mentioned that they used it only for a selected group. Based on their answers the authors arrived at a figure of 186 for and 214 against giving a total number as 400. This is confusing as the total number of urologists in the survey is 325. It would be more beneficial to the reader if the authors either omitted that sentence/ omitted the group of 75 urologists or mentioned them as a separate group rather than trying to group them into a for or against group.

Minor Revisions:

It would be useful for the reader if the authors mentioned the incidence of indeterminate renal masses necessitating biopsy either from the literature or from their practice.

Results section- MDT has to be expanded.

Questionnaire- Question 3. Spelling of the eighth question- medically.

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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'