Reviewer's report

Title: Cost-effectiveness comparison between palpation- and ultrasound-guided thyroid fine-needle aspiration biopsies

Version: 3 Date: 4 February 2009

Reviewer: Carlo Cappelli

Reviewer's report:

The Author should clearly know that the 20-30% of apparent sporadic medullary cancers are familiar medullary thyroid cancers (FMTC).

Without a genetic RET screening the Author can not excluded the present of a bias in this study. The high prevalence of medullary cancers in the USG-FNA group it's only explainable, at this time, with the presence of FMTC. Without this data no conclusions can be allowed.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.