Title: Vocal local versus pharmacological treatments for pain management in tubal ligation procedures in rural Kenya: a non-inferiority study

Version: Date: 23 October 2013

Reviewer: Nilanchali Singh

Reviewer's report:

Good study on a simple technique. Study design is good.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Were the patients informed about no use of analgesia while taking an informed consent? What was their response?
2. Were all cases at a center performed by same doctor? How does it impact the study?
3. How were the assistants trained for VL? By whom?
4. Does training of these assistants, keeping separate assistants for this job does not incur charges? Considering this fact, how to explain cost reduction?
5. How can this technique be useful in Cesarean as mentioned by the author? Local anaesthesia is not recommended for Cesareans?
6. Most painful moment should have also included the time of performing the procedure as most of the patients have maximum pain while holding the tubes.

Discretionary Revisions

7. Cases and controls were recruited from different centers. This could have lead to many biases including the different personnel giving VL differently. What do the authors say about allocation of patients in two groups from each center?

Minor Essential Revisions

8. Brief description of VL technique would increase the value of this article.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 I have no competing interests.