Reviewer’s report

Title: Hemoglobin estimation by the HemoCue(R) portable hemoglobin photometer in a resource poor setting

Version: 1 Date: 20 March 2011

Reviewer: Robert Hahn

Reviewer’s report:

The study comparing HemoCue, Sysmex and Cyanmethemoglobin methods of measuring blood hemoglobin is somewhat simplistic in approach – what is reported in comparisons between three laboratory methods, a type of quality control that should be inherent in the routine of a clinical chemistry lab. As cited, HemoCue, a method/product being on market for the past 30 years, has been evaluated several times in the past. What is unique here might be the setting.

I think the manuscript is well written and easy to follow. The key result if that the 95% CI for the agreement is approximately 10%, which is most likely sufficient for clinical use. Factors leading to erroneous results are not evaluated, in my personal experience the technique of filling the HemoCue cyvette has some importance.

Nothing is said about calibration of the Sysmex.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.