Reviewer's report

Title: Losing the genetic twin: donor grief after unsuccessful unrelated stem cell transplantation

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2008

Reviewer: R M Jindal

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
> 2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? No
> 3. Are the data sound? No
> 4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
> 5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? No
> 6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? No
> 7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
> 8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
> 9. Is the writing acceptable? No

1. The authors have not used a validated instrument to perform their study. This is a fatal flaw in the paper. I would encourage the authors to use a standardized instrument to do this study.

2. The subject is important and relevant as there is a lack of data on psychosocial issues surrounding donors of transplants.

3. The entire manuscript suffers from a poor grammar and should be edited by a native English speaking editor.

4. The discussion is rambling and could be cut down by 20%

5. It is not clear how the 12 donors were chosen for detailed semi-structured interviews. Were they randomly chosen?

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited