Reviewer's report

Title: Vasectomy Surgical Techniques: A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2004

Reviewer: Ronald Reynolds, MD

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well written paper that does a nice job of reviewing a large number of vasectomy papers that have been published over the years. The authors do an appropriate ranking of each paper as to its strength of evidence, and draw reasonable conclusions based upon the reviewed literature. The tables are comprehensive. I am not aware of any vasectomy literature that is not included in the review.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The bulk of open-ended vasectomy papers reviewed seem to suggest a reduced incidence of late postoperative orchialgia and epidydimitis with open-ended technique. The paper's conclusion on this point seems a bit less positive than the preponderance of the reviewed literature.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Moss is not a urologist as he is listed in the tables - he is a gynecologist that worked at a southern California abortion clinic that also offered vasectomy

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I recently met Drs. Labrecque and Barone at a vasectomy experts conference, and am working with them and Family Health International and EngenderHealth in designing a randomized controlled trial of different vasectomy techniques in low-resource settings.