Reviewer’s report

Title: The Tilburg double blind randomised controlled trial comparing inguinal hernia repair according to Lichtenstein and the transinguinal preperitoneal technique

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2009

Reviewer: lawrence friedman

Reviewer’s report:

I have reviewed this manuscript and have a few comments:

a) Although the trial registration is listed in the supplemental material, it would be preferable if listed in the actual manuscript

b) In several places, the trial is called double blind. I fail to see how it is double blind. Obviously, the surgeons know which procedure they are using. It is not clear if the patients also know which procedure is done. What will the person assessing the outcome know?

c) A better description of the outcome procedures (how collected and by whom) would be helpful.

d) A discussion of patient availability (e.g., how many inguinal hernia operations each year at the participating hospitals) should be provided.

e) I noted that even though they are presumably unbiased, the authors clearly believe that TIPP is preferable (the covering note says, “we think that the TIPP technique will make a difference”). Therefore, all the more reason to clearly describe how assessment will be done blindly and objectively.