Reviewer’s report

Title: A Statistical Framework for Quantifying Clinical Equipoise for Individual Cases during Randomized Controlled Surgical Trials

Version: 2 Date: 9 November 2011

Reviewer: Jenny Donovan

Reviewer’s report:

I think the authors have responded to most of the review comments adequately, although they have missed the opportunity to discuss some interesting issues in the 'limitations section'. However, I think they have not taken the advice of both reviewers that the conclusion of the paper and abstract do not reflect the content of the paper.

They have added in both the abstract and paper conclusion: "The methodology has clear potential as an objective and ethical method of identifying eligible patients, and thereby increasing patient recruitment, by simplifying the eligibility criteria and encouraging otherwise sceptical surgeons to participate in clinical trials."

I think, as both reviewers suggested, that they should tone this down to something like:

"The methodology has potential to identify eligible patients and assist in the simplification of eligibility criteria which might encouraging greater participation in clinical trials."

I think the paper would then be ok.