Reviewer's report

Title: Surgical trials and trial registers: A cross-sectional study of randomized controlled trials published in journals requiring trial registration in their author instructions

Version: 2 Date: 15 October 2013

Reviewer: Ludovic Reveiz

Reviewer's report:

The authors have included most of requires modifications made by the three reviewers.

Few minor revisions are still needed

1- Background Paragraph 3: "Not even one year after publication of the ICMJE statement, the World Health Organization (WHO) established its International Clinical Trials Register Platform (ICTRP)" ...This is not correct. WHO established standards in 2006 but the ICTRP was launch later (2008?).

2. Emphasize differences between prospectively and retrospectively registered trials. 53% of trials were retrospectively registered in their sample. What are the implications?

3. While the authors seem optimistic with their findings (first paragraph of the discussion section) only 1/5 trials are complying with prospective trial registration.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'.

The authors have included in this new version two references in which I am the main author.