Reviewer's report

Title: A pragmatic multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing stapled haemorrhoidopexy to traditional excisional surgery for haemorrhoidal disease (eTHoS)

Version: 1 Date: 7 August 2014

Reviewer: Zhaoxiang Bian

Reviewer's report:

1. This trial including many centers, how to keep all procedures at the same level, although it is pragmatic trial?
2. Age is a factor for this disease. Is it possible to conduct the subgroup analysis?
3. The purpose of this study is to compare the clinical efficacy, cost-effective analysis, and others. IF that is the case, the efficacy is a key element. Normally, the handling of haemorrhoidal disease, the treatment success rate, operation time, postoperative complications and recurrence of haemorrhoidal disease are the key factor for the treatment, why QoL was chosen as the primary outcome?
4. The formal of this protocol should be revised, based on SPIRIT format.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'