Reviewer's report

**Title:** Team approach concept in Management of Oro-facial Clefts: a survey of Nigerian practitioners.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 January 2008

**Reviewer:** Peter Damiano

**Reviewer's report:**

This article is in regard to an important issue: team care in the developing world. Both the mission-type trips (one-offs) and the lack of specialists in many areas make this a challenge in many countries. This article attempts to add information on this topic to the literature.

# Major Compulsory Revisions

The methods section currently does not have sufficient detail either about the primary research questions of the study or the survey methodology. For example, regarding the survey, as much information as possible about the following would be helpful:

1) How were the subjects identified?
2) How many were attempted and refused?
3) How long was the survey?
4) Where did the questions come from?

For the research question (s), what was hoped to be accomplished from surveying this variety of types of providers? Was it to see how many teams there were in the country? How many of teams were functioning as a team? How individuals viewed their teams (but then in what context). In other words, what was the unit of analysis (team or person) and if person, what can that tell you.

To assist this, if there is any way to identify the number of cleft teams in the country or, more likely, the number of teaching hospitals in the country. This could be used as a pseudo denominator for the number of cleft team and to compare the generalizability of this study and the unit of analysis. At a minimum, the number of cleft teams these respondents represent should be reported.

# Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

# Discretionary Revisions

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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