Reviewer's report

Title: 3-D reconstruction of a human foetus with combined holoprosencephaly and synophthalmia

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2009

Reviewer: G.H. Sperber

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The title is somewhat tautological in that synophthalmia is a component of holoprosencephaly. A suggested new title would be: "3-D reconstruction of an holoprosencephalic human fetus". This raises the question of whether British (foetus) or American (fetus) spelling is to be used in your Journal, as it is inconsistently alternated in the text.

2. A revision of English usage in the text to clarify aspects of the descriptions in the abstract, background, methods and results is recommended. The Discussion is the best part of the text in reviewing previous cases, although "McGrath P, Sperber GH. Floor of median orbit in human cyclopia. An anatomical study in 3 dimensions. J. Anat. 169: 125-138, 1990" could be included for a more comprehensive review.

3. The figures are excellent, but the reference to Fig.1b on Page 6 should be Fig.1c., and more seriously, the identification arrows in Fig.8b are completely misplaced.

Minor Essential Revisions.
1. The repeated use of "one single" in describing unitary structures is tautological, as "single" is only "one", and should be replaced by "a single...".

2. The use of "orbita" and "mandibula" raises the question of which anatomical nomenclature is to be consistently used, as all the other anatomical structures named use "English" terms, whereas "orbita" and "mandibula" are Latin.

Discretionary Revisions
1. A comprehensive review of the spelling errors and grammatical inconsistencies requires that the manuscript be revised for its syntax.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.
G.H. Sperber