Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2009

Reviewer: Eduardo Castilla

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
Please, remove "combined" as well as "and synophthalmia" from title, abstract, and rest of the text.
Since 10 per cent of holoprosencephalies have cyclopia (Orioli & Castilla. Am J Med Genet, 143A: 3088-3099, 2007) synophthalmia should be considered as part of the holoprosencephaly spectrum instead of a combined distinct defect.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Tha aim of this work is only mentioned in the abstract, it lacking at the end of the introduction (or background) as usual
2. The conclusion ("a developmental defect in the fronto-nasal facial process of this foetus") seems too feeble as the only answer to the central aim ("to determine the structure and extend of the malformation").
3. The histological finding giving sound ground for the concept of prosbocis being a nose remnant is important for the clinical understanding of hloprosencephaly. Thus, it should be outlined in the conclusions.
4. Page 10, Conclusion. First paragraph, please, delete "(genetic or environmentally)" since it is meaningless.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.