Reviewer's report

Title: Decreased morbidity following long saphenous vein harvesting using a minimally invasive technique: A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL COMPARING TWO TECHNIQUES FOR LONG SAPHENOUS VEIN HARVEST

Version: 1 Date: 9 May 2006

Reviewer: Zev Davis

Reviewer's report:

General: the report is well done but does not seem to pose a new or essentially unresolved issue. the proposed technique is reusable and has cost savings relative to well proven endoscopic harvest techniques. however significant disadvantages are its application in the calf only, the large number of incisions and pain post harvest similar to the open technique. a better comparison might be to endoscopic harvest rather than to an open technique, which is becoming less common.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached): A short report might be a better vehicle rather than a full length article.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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