Reviewer's report

Title: Peri-operative Data on the Nuss procedure in children with pectus excavatum: Independent survey of the first 20 years’ data

Version: 1 Date: 29 April 2008

Reviewer: Hans K Pilegaard

Reviewer's report:

The paper addresses an important issue, but need to be updated with newer references which focus on complications.

1) you write that the technique requires carbon dioxide insufflation, why? The operation can be done by double lumen tube intubation and even in young patients with intubation by a normal tube in short periods of apnoe.

2) need a discussion of the optimal age of the patient and if the technique can be used in adults.

3) What is the indication - cosmetic?

4) What is the main problem to handle postoperatively?

5) What is the advantage of the technique compared to Ravitch?

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 have been funded from Walther Lorenz in a study concerning quality of life after correction of pectus excavatum.