

### *Biostatistics*

I Dr Ravindranath Tiruvoipati confirm that I hold a Post Graduate Award in Biostatistics and Research Methodology and a Post Graduate Award in Research Methodology and Critical Appraisal. I also hold a Master's Degree in Health Services Research with a significant component of Master's Degree including Advanced Statistics.

I confirm that the statistical techniques used in the above manuscript is adequately described and appropriately used.

Sincerely,

  
Ravindranath Tiruvoipati