Reviewer's report

Title: Preoperative muscle weakness as defined by handgrip strength and postoperative outcomes: a systematic review.

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2011

Reviewer: Sanjay Purkayastha

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revision:

• There appears to be a discrepancy between the citation numbers in the text matching the citation numbers of the studies they refer to in the tables and in the reference list.

• Table 5: There is the use of an ‘*’ twice, once in the title, once in the legend. In the first draft there was only one ‘*’ and it referred to Le Cornu, now they both refer to Figueirdo. Is this correct? Depending on this the ‘B’ in Table 6 may need to be adjusted.

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

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.