Reviewer’s report

Title: A national survey into perioperative anesthetic management of patients with a fractured neck of femur

Version: 3 Date: 3 June 2012

Reviewer: Peter J Smitham

Reviewer’s report:

I feel this paper is a good summary of anesthetic practices within Finland in 2009 and will be of interest to the readership. However there are a number of changes that I feel should be made before publishing.

Minor Revisions

1) I wonder if the conclusion this paper draws is consistent with the findings of the survey. Both the preoperative and post operative regimes show a wide variation in regimes used and so one could consider further studies in both areas are needed rather than just preoperatively.

Furthermore, not being familiar with the current preoperative practice in Finland some explanation regarding the average time to theatre and the standard anesthetic involvement during this period would be useful. In the UK it would be unusual for anesthetic involvement preop and blocks are carried out within A&E by the orthopaedic team or A&E staff.

2) The use of NSAIDs both pre and post op would be unusual for the renal function issue mentioned and the increased use of thromboprophylaxis agents used. Therefore I think these risks should carry a greater cautionary warning within the paper.

3) p 8 line 1 add the word "with" after exclusively.

4) p 13 line 1 the sentence beginning with "it has" needs rewording ? change to However, it does have the same common undesirable effects as morphine......

5) p 13 line 5 beginning with "However" needs rewording as does the following sentence beginning with "Furthemore". ? change to "However, the relatively high prevalence of renal dysfunction among elderly patients may contraindicate the use of NSAIDs in some patients, while opioids may.....

Furthermore, a shift from opioid analgesia to femoral nerve block techniques, as a part of the optimised hip fracture program, has reduced the rate of in hospital......

6) p14 line 1 change enqiure to survey

7) Figure 2 & 3 Labels should include "Intraoperative care" within the tittles.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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