Reviewer's report

Title: Pacemaker patients' perception of unsafe activities: a survey

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Reviewer: Christof Kolb

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In the manuscript “Pacemaker patient’s perception of unsafe activities: a survey” Aqueel et al. devote to the perception of everyday life activities by pacemaker recipients. Main finding of the survey is that a surprisingly high percentage of patients consider different types of technology-associated activities or medical interventions as unsafe although there is no clinical evidence for an adverse effect on the pacing system. Interestingly, no differences were found between literate and illiterate patients or patients who reminded counselling compared to those who did not.

The authors are commended for critically questioning whether medical knowledge is adequately and successfully transferred to the patients. The high amount of misperception shows that this transfer - despite current efforts – is not achieved in the amount perceived by physicians which leads to unnecessary, self-imposed restrictions by the patients and by this way the findings obtain clinical importance.

The data provided give a good basis of the current status in the community surveyed. Although the data may not be transferable to the situation in other countries, the manuscript may encourage other authors to do similar surveys in order to disclose their specific “success rates” in informing patients. Furthermore, the manuscript gives a good basis for further studies that could evaluate which means of patient information may be most effective and whether repeated counselling could increase the success of transferring the medical knowledge to the patient.

Overall, this is a well written manuscript conveying an important clinical message.

Please just correct the reference #9: Delete “SS” after Christof Kolb and change the second author to "Günter Lehmann" or if the German letters are not available change to "Gunter Lehmann".

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 declare that I have no competing interests