Reviewer's report

Title: Factors related to functional prognosis in elderly patients after accidental hip fractures. A prospective cohort study.

Version: 2
Date: 14 August 2014
Reviewer: Roy Mathew

Reviewer's report:

To the authors:
Your article titled “Factors related to functional prognosis in elderly patients after accidental hip fractures. A prospective cohort study”, has been reviewed. It is a report of a prospectively collected cohort of individuals with “accidental hip” fracture and predictors of functional recovery following the fracture. I think this was an overall well written paper. The data is a bit sparse but still consistent with much of the prior literature on this topic. I would have liked to see more detail on the comorbidities of the patients (rather than yes/no) or at least give ranges of Charlson index scores. There are relevant disorders to hip fracture: DM, CVD, COPD, osteoporosis that should be better mentioned (I realized the former two were discussed). Other aspects of the paper that should be addressed are listed below:

Minor reviews:
1. Line 7: Corresponding author, not autor.
2. Line 140 – “were used” occurs twice.

Discretionary review:
3. Line 221 – phrasing is confusing. Discharge as reference to leaving the emergency department to another floor seems confusing – maybe because of how I use the term (Typically to mean leaving the hospital altogether). Transfer or admission to a specific unit maybe more universally recognized.

Major revisions:
4. Line 131-132: Moment of interview, is that standardized for all patients? Varying time from fracture to first interview could bias the recall of patients. Should clarify this in methods.
5. I would not include ER visits post fracture in table 3 – why would this be a predictor of recovery? You were interested in baseline characteristics that would predict poor functional recovery.
6. Lines 289-291: You mention that there was no significant effect of type of fracture on recovery. It may be that you do not have enough numbers to discern this effect. You could site some references to see if this is consistent with the literature.
7. similarly, the type of repair, if any, may affect recovery – can see what the
literature states about this and could be placed in the discussion.

8. I would also clarify what “accidental” hip fracture means. Would someone with a pathologic fracture be expected to have the same outcome as someone with a purely mechanical fall related fracture? Could mention if any were suspected of having a pathologic fracture.

**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.