Reviewer's report

Title: Risk of fractures in patients with multiple sclerosis: record-linkage study.

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Reviewer: Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius

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The increased risk of fractures in patients with MS is well known and studies of possible etiological factors are interesting. This study confirms previous findings of increased risk, but it is difficult to see that this study brings new information.

There are some major methodological considerations. The patients included are those admitted to hospital in a defined period, and constitutes a selection of the MS-population. The age distribution indicated that older patients are overrepresented and thus one would expect more disability and an increased risk of fractures compared to the general MS-population. At least these aspects should have been discussed.

Furthermore the control group is not matched as this group mainly consists of people under the age of 15. The actual number of patients in the older age groups is very limited. Thus the validity of the findings may be questioned.

Several fracture sites are registered, but a statistical correction for multiple comparisons has not been performed and should be included.

The discussion on possible etiological factors is very limited – probably because the study does not provide valuable information on this aspect due to the above mentioned limitations. As this article only confirms earlier findings one would require an update on relevant literature and especially articles in this field published in 2011 and 2012 are missing.

Reference 5 should be updated. The statistical soft-ware used should be given. Abbreviations should be written in full the first time they appear in the text.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no financial competing interests in relation to this paper, but
I have received funding for travel and speaker honoraria from Sanofi-Aventis,
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