Reviewer's report

Title: Are classifications of proximal radius fractures reproducible?

Version: 2 Date: 13 July 2009

Reviewer: Jack Anavian

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The authors have done an excellent job in revising the manuscript. However, there are a few more revisions that would help make the manuscript stronger:

1. In the Conclusion section, while the author now BOTH the Mason and Morrey systems as having overall satisfactory reliability when compared to the AO/ASIF system, they have not stated which of the two show the most reliability. This is important. The authors show indicate that while both the Mason and Morrey classifications are both reliable, the Mason classification is most reliable.

2. The authors now include a paragraph in the discussion that describes the need for prospective studies to determine what variables in the classification systems results in variability. However, the authors still need to elaborate on how their results correlate with their description of what constitutes an ideal classification. If this cannot be done based on these results, then this needs to be stated in the discussion with the explanation that future studies designed to evaluate the utility of these classifications and whether they meet the commonly accepted criteria for an ideal classification are needed.

3. In paragraph #5 of the discussion, the authors now state that "The AO/ASIF is a more complex system that involves the proximal radius as well as associated ulnar injuries, showing that the more complex the system is, the less concordance is seen." This is a good observation and is important. But the correlation also exists with regard to the INTRA-observer reliability. The authors need to:

1) elaborate on this correlation seen between complexity of the classification system and the degree of BOTH the intra- and inter-observer concordances, and then 2) elaborate on why they believe this to be the case (The AO/ASIF is a more complex system that involves the proximal radius as well as associated ulnar and ligamentous injuries. These added variables will presumably have a negative impact on reproducibility).

Minor Essential Revisions:

None

Discretionary Revisions:

None
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.