Reviewer's report

Title: Study rationale and protocol: Prospective randomized comparison of metal ion concentrations in the patient’s plasma after implantation of coated and uncoated total knee prostheses

Version: 1 Date: 18 August 2009

Reviewer: Agustin Escalante

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
None

Minor essential revisions:

The proposed study is methodologically sound. However, authors need to provide some additional data so that all readers can have a full understanding of the protocol. As submitted, the manuscript does not include sufficient information for a reader to replicate the power/sample size estimate. What is missing from the manuscript is the standard deviation or some other distributional statistic, of the outcome they used to drive their estimates (chromium ion concentration, 8th page of manuscript).

Discretionary revisions:
None

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'