Reviewer's report

Title: Health-related quality of life after vertebral or hip fracture: a seven-year follow-up study

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2009

Reviewer: Stuart Silverman

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Major revisions
An interesting long-term study of the effects of vertebral or hip fracture on HRQOL
However one of the problems of such a study are downstream fractures and mortality. How were subsequent fractures handled? One could include patients with subsequent fracture but then one might want to stratify patients with and without subsequent fracture. Significant mortality was observed. How was this handled? Was it ignored. One could model death as HRQOL of zero.Is the loss of QOL with vert fracture due to the single vert fx or a downward spiral as some authors have suggested due to subsequent fractures?
This article is unique in that both seven year data and physical performance measures are shown.
We need more information about the reference group. Was it matched by comorbidities, age, etc. It should be. Please show the demographics of this group in table 1.

Minor revisions
reference tables and figures in results

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare no competing interests