Reviewer's report

Title: Variations in the pre-operative status of patients coming to primary hip replacement for osteoarthritis in European orthopaedic centres

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2008

Reviewer: Montserrat Núñez

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions
- In the abstract, the authors mention the EuroQol questionnaire, but it is not included in the Methods or Results. The authors talk about "general health" which is measured by the EuroQol. Please make it clear whether the EuroQol was included in the regression and other analyses or not.
- In the Results, please explain whether the WOMAC scores followed a normal distribution or not and what tests were applied as a result.
- In the univariate analysis, when there is statistical significance which category of variable is it for? Statistical significance is not the same when made for trend as when made for nonlinear trend. Which is correct'
- The multivariable analysis is not clearly presented. It does not mention the variability explained by the model nor what is the category of reference for each of the variables.
- Please define ASA the first time it is used and provide more explanation of what it is.
- What criteria were used to define "arterial insufficiency".
- Why is "handedness" measured and what relevance does it have to the hip. This can be deleted.
- The authors state whether the subdivisions of the K and L were used in the statistical analysis or not
- The authors should state the time period of the study
- In the results, what exactly does the number =182 mean, if 193 cases were excluded?
- Grouping patients into regions seems somewhat doubtful. As an example, Spain, France and Italy have very different health systems and cannot be compared.
- The authors should state in the Methods that they used a Kappa to score interobserver reliability.
Table 1 should be deleted and presented in the text.
Tables 2 and 3 can be combined.
Table 4 is very long and could be shortened.
Table 6 should be presented in the text with percentages.
Table 7 could be presented in the text.
Table 8 should be presented in the text.

The article is long and a bit wordy. It could be shortened and the English improved slightly.

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