Reviewer's report

Title: How reliable is MRI for diagnosis of cartilage lesions in patients with lateral patella dislocation?

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2010

Reviewer: Yukiyoshi Toritsuka

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

In general
This paper is a study that shows diagnostic value of MRI to chondral lesion focused on patients with patellar dislocation. I suppose that it is a good idea but the paper is prolix. I think this large volume deteriorates the quality of this paper. It would be difficult for the readers to correctly understand the essence.

I wonder what is “something new” of this paper. Grade III and/or IV lesion can be diagnosed by MRI generally. There are some studies on diagnostic value of MRI to chondral lesion, therefore, I believe the authors should clearly focused on patients with patellar dislocation and make emphasis on the difference of MR diagnostic values between the 1st dislocation and recurrent dislocation. I suppose that would add the originality of this paper.

Summary
Needs re-writing to make more succinct.

Back ground
Too long and insufficient problem discription.

Methods
Subject
Needs pruning.

MR imaging
“Signal heterogeneities within -------- of a cartilage softening.”
The author should define grade 1 lesion in MRI without using arthroscopic findings.

Results
Too long. Needs pruning.

The 1st paragraph
The authors should summarize the data because distribution of chondral lesion
evaluated by arthroscopy was not the main subject of this study.

Discussion
Too long and needs rewriting.

Conclusion
Too long

References
Too much

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.