Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Two-year changes in quality of life in elderly patients with low-energy hip fractures. A prospective case-control study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 May 2010

**Reviewer:** Yea-Ing Shyu

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written paper addressing an important clinical issue. The use of a control group and longitudinal follow-ups were the strengths of this study. Several suggestions are listed as follows:

- **Minor But Essential Revisions**

  1. Please provide the rationale for assessing HRQOL and GQOL at the same time.

  2. In the data collection procedure, please specify that the baseline data were collected by asking the subjects to recall the pre-fracture HRQOL and GQOL. This fact was not made clear until the discussion, which is too late.

  3. Were the subjects assessed for their cognitive function before responding to the questionnaire? How can we be confident about the validity of data obtained? Please clarify.

  4. Who recruited and administered the questionnaire, what kind of training did the rater(s) receive? Please clarify.

  5. Please provide information on the sample estimates and power analysis. In addition, provide the reason for excluding subjects that dropped out during the 2 year period (26, 20 in the first year and 6 in the second year). This decision might bias the results. There are multiple ways of dealing with this attrition, such as the multiple data imputation method, or using the longitudinal data analysis method such as GEE or HLM that can use subjects for at least 2 data points. Why did the researcher choose the repeated measures MANOVA method over the other methods of analysis?

  6. How was the number of co-morbidity measured? What were the diseases that were included? Were both chronic and acute diseases included? Please clarify.

- **Discretionary Revisions**

  7. In the discussion, different from the literature, this study did not find that BMD was a significant predictor for HRQOL. It would be nice if the explanation for this difference was added.

  8. Can the researchers suggest a better patient-reported outcome measure
based on the findings of this study? It seems that HRQOL was more sensitive to the impact of hip fracture than GQOL.

**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.