Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of Pain and Use of Pain medications following Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA): 5,707 THAs at 2-years and 3,289 THAs at 5-years

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2010

Reviewer: Roger Componovo

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

1) Outcomes of Interest, last paragraph. Why did you group oral steroid users in with “none” in terms of pain medication usage. It seems that if they are using steroids, they are having pain. It should be lumped in with one of the other categories.

2) Page 9 first line- Our findings suggest that screening for depression prior to surgery…” I think we need to be careful about the conclusions regarding depression in this study. The trend at 2 years did not carry over at 5 years. The authors don’t make any explanations for this. To me, since the trend did not carry over to 5 years, I can’t really say the conclusions at 2 years are valid. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that those who are depressed may score their pain in a higher category based on their psychiatric illness rather than actual pain.

3) Summary Paragraph- I don’t agree with second sentence. I don’t think we can really conclude much about the depression data

General Comments

1) Some good points raised here. I am always cautious about conclusions from Regression Analysis studies, but I do think that the study is well done and that it accomplishes its goals.

2) The prevalence of pain reported 8.1% at 2 years and 10.8% at 5 years is quite interesting. I don’t think that most of us counsel our patients preoperatively about this. We all talk about failure rates and infection, etc, but this is a very important finding that should be a part of any preop counseling session.

3) The response rates of 62% and 53% are very concerning. This could have a tremendous affect on the data in this study.

4) Areas to strengthen the study:
   Report pain as a score based on a visual analog scale.
   Record how many patients took narcotics before surgery.
   Record how many had moderate/severe pain before surgery. Although we
presume this was an indication for surgery, we don’t know how the patient would have categorized their pain based on this scale.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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