Reviewer's report

Title: Minimally invasive and computer-navigated total hip arthroplasty. A qualitative and systematic review of the literature.

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2010

Reviewer: Flavia Cicuttini

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to perform a systematic review of published evidence on the effectiveness of minimally invasive surgery, computer-assisted surgery and computer-assisted minimally invasive surgery for total hip arthroplasty.

This is a very interesting and thoroughly performed systematic review. My main concerns relate to the clarity of the results and discussion.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Discussion: This is very hard to follow and poorly structured. This needs to be re-written so that it follows a more conventional structure for a discussion. The first paragraph needs to highlight the main findings of this study. These can then be discussed in more detail, including potential limitations. As it is currently written it is very difficult to follow what the main points are. I would suggest that the discussion be re-structured and re-written.

2. When the authors present the results they need to present what they mean more clearly. For example they state on page 7: ‘Hence strong evidence was found for a positive effect of MIS THA on intraoperative blood loss.’ The authors need to clarify what they mean. There are a number of such examples throughout the results section.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The multiple non-standard abbreviations make it hard for the reader to read the text.

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.