Reviewer's report

Title: Does pre-operative psychological distress affect patient satisfaction after primary total hip arthroplasty?

Version: 1 Date: 23 November 2010

Reviewer: Stephan Doering

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This study investigates psychological distress as assessed by the corresponding subscale of the SF-36 questionnaire as a predictor of patient satisfaction five years after total hip replacement surgery. 448 patients from a multisite study were included into this assessment.

The results show that patients who were psychologically distressed before surgery did not differ significantly from not distressed patients with regard to their satisfaction with outcome after five years.

This study is simple, well-designed, and due to the large sample size and the long follow-up period of considerable clinical and scientific value.

There is only one issue that deserves to be revised: The “patient satisfaction survey” is not described in the Patients and Methods section of the paper. This procedure should be described in more detail: Was a questionnaire used? Was this a validated instrument? How does the instrument look like? Were questionnaires sent by mail? Or were patients interviewed personally or by telephone?

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.