Reviewer's report

**Title:** Trends in knee arthroscopy and subsequent arthroplasty in an Australian population: a retrospective cohort study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 17 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Sérgio Piedade

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In the literature, arthroscopy is described as a valuable tool for treating mechanical symptoms related to early stages of knee arthritis with satisfactory postoperative clinical results, as well as the arthroscopy procedures can improve clinical symptom and delay TKA intervention.

However, the indication of knee arthroscopy is a point that should be considered, because it is related to the effectiveness of this intervention.

So, I would like to suggest to the authors to include in this analysis the data of:

- **clinical evaluation:**
  - etiological diagnosis, knee range of motion, level of pain, and maybe, some clinical scores that was applied on defining the arthroscopy approach.

- **radiological evaluation:**
  - stage of knee arthritis, knee alignment, patella height...

So, these aspects are relevant because they offer us more information about the patients, improving the analysis and the understanding of the results.

Another point that could be considered is the TKA outcomes after prior knee surgery.

So, does minor knee surgical procedure have some influences in the TKA outcomes?

**ARE THE DATA SOUND?**

As pointed before, I suggested that some data should be considered in this analysis.

Are the limitations of the work clearly stated?

It is should be noted that retrospective studies in contrast to prospective randomized studies are subject to selection bias among groups.

In this study, the authors emphasized the limitations related to administrative datasets, which could comprise incomplete patient data and coding errors, as well as the affected side and the indication of knee arthroscopic procedure.
So, the limitations of the study were clearly stated, but it should be outstand that it could leave to some difficulties on the analysis of the data and results.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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