Reviewer's report

Title: What do we tell patients about elective total hip replacement in the UK? An analysis of patient literature.

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Nefyn Williams

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General comments:
The aims of this study were to evaluate patient literature about THR in terms of presentation, whether it was multi-disciplinary or profession specific and whether specific ADLs were covered. A bespoke evaluation instrument was adapted for this purpose authors come to the unsurprising conclusion that there was a variation in the quality of the literature. There is a useful table concerning the presentation of the leaflets in terms of lay out, inclusion of diagrams etc., but I am surprised that the reading age was not measured. There is also an informative table concerning the activities of daily living.

Discretionary revisions regarding the bespoke evaluation instrument:
Some of the development work for this new instrument is described such as the three main domains. However, the psychometric properties of the instrument have not been tested as described by Streiner & Norman. This needs to be acknowledged in the discussion.
P6 line 3 the researchers scored a random sample of 30 leaflets to assess whether each item contributed to the assessment of the document. This could have been more formally tested with item-total correlation. I would call this content validity as criterion validity would be to compare this new instrument with a 'gold standard' tool. The authors do describe some inter-rater and intra-rater reliability testing but do not present the results. There is no construct validity testing such as comparison with readability measurements.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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