Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of Age and Comorbidity Burden on Mortality and Major Complications in Older Adults Undergoing Orthopaedic Surgery: An Analysis Using the Japanese Diagnosis Procedure Combination Database

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2013

Reviewer: Toru Maruyama

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading the manuscript. The authors indicated that the comorbidity, type of surgery, and age had an impact on the complication of the orthopaedic surgery.

Major Compulsory Revisions

It is difficult to recognize what kind of elderly patients had higher risk for surgery. What does “comorbidity burden” mean?

I recommend the authors to list up most frequent comorbidities and to clarify the definition of CCI.

Page 9, line 15: elective orthopaedic surgery - - Sometimes cervical laminoplasty, lumbar decompression or lumbar arthrodesis are conducted as an emergency surgery for trauma or acute paralytic disorders. Did the authors exclude such emergency surgeries?

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.