Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of untreated ulnar styloid fracture on the outcome of unstable distal radial fracture treated with external fixation

Version: 5 Date: 3 April 2013

Reviewer: Binu Thomas

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Title: must be reworded to include "Effect of untreated ulnar styloid fracture with a stable Distal RadioUlnar Joint" as authors have not included patients with an unstable DRUJ in this series.
2. Abstract Background: 2nd line also should contain " Effect of treating ulnar styloid fractures with a stable DRUJ"
3. Abstract Conclusion must also be changed to reflect that the patients selected had a stable DRUJ in spite of an ulnar styloid fracture (or not). Hence,: "Untreated ulnar styloid fracture does not affect the wrist outcomes of a patient with unstable DRF treated with external fixation if the patient's distal radioulnar joint is stable".
4. In the Methods section, in Surgical technique, 1st paragraph, last line, mention how many patients in the series underwent limited open reduction.
5. In Surgical technique, 2nd paragraph, 1st line, clarify whether it was wrist instability or DRUJ instability is checked.
6. In Surgical technique, 2nd paragraph, 2nd line should be reworded to reflect the fact that only patients with a stable DRUJ were selected in this study.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Clinical evaluation, Paragraph 1, Line 8: PWEF-HK should be changed to PRWE-HK
2. In Clinical Characteristics of the DRUJ at final follow-up, last line : DURJ to DRUJ
3. Discussion, Paragraph, 4, line 2: change printer to pronator
4. Discussion, Paragraph 5, last line : change FTCC to TFCC

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'