Reviewer's report

Title: Hemiarthroplasties in young patients with osteonecrosis or a tumour of the proximal femur; an observational cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 24 July 2012

Reviewer: William C Eward

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be congratulated on an interesting review of a controversial topic - whether hemiarthroplasty is a suitable procedure for young patients requiring resection and reconstruction of the proximal femur. I believe that it should be published in the BMC.

However, the errors in English grammar and diction are unfortunately quite extensive and prevent publication in its current format. I believe that there are two options to address this:

1) The authors could hire a professional writer to edit their manuscript.
2) The authors could likely find many willing colleagues who speak English as a first language that would be willing to thoroughly edit the manuscript, possibly involving enough work to justify their status as co-author.

Major Essential Revisions
1) 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th sentences of Background must have citations
2) In Discussion, as in Background, you should include at least one citation for the concept that acetabular chondrolysis and osteolysis after hemiarthroplasty are strongly influenced by activity level.
3) See comment above about improving the English grammar and diction.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) In the first sentence of the abstract, it should read "...especially the acetabular (not acetabulum) component."
2) In abstract, methods, first sentence, remove "as indication."
3) Same section, third sentence, change "difference" to "differences" and in the fourth sentence, change "numerical group" to "numerical groups."
4) Same section, the last sentence can be removed. It is not necessary to discuss alpha value in the abstract.
5) First sentence of Background should be clearer; current wording is a bit awkward. May I suggest, "Total hip arthroplasty (THA) is one of the most important advances in lower extremity reconstruction of the past century."
6) In the discussion, please change the term "bone impacted grafting" to "impaction bone grafting," the more commonly used term to describe this
technique.

Discretionary Revisions

1) Please include the number of tumors and osteonecrosis, respectively, in the abstract methods.

2) The following sentence from the Discussion, "Although RCT’s show superior results of THA compared to hemiarthroplasties in the short term and have the tendency to be superior after 7-10 years of follow up; these studies regard fractures in elderly patients with a mean age of >70 years.[14-18]" is the key reason that this study is important and interesting. I would encourage you to include it in the Background (with the citations) and in the first paragraph of the Discussion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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.