Reviewer's report

Title: Tibia shaft fractures: costly burden of nonunions

Version: 2 Date: 19 August 2012

Reviewer: Peter Giannoudis

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions

This is an interesting study. However, the data presented require some clarifications:

1. Were all non-union patients re-operated?
2. Did all non-union patients unite?
3. What does the in hospital cost calculation include? Theatre sessions?
4. What was the detailed theatre costs?
5. How many interventions did the patients undergo?

Unless we know the extent and the success of the intervention how can we provide an accurate calculation of the costs implications?

6. Were any BMPs used for treatment?
7. What percentage?
8. Was the success the same with and without BMP's?

Unless the authors provide some more data, the figures presented are not meaningful.

Minor:

Abstract: Tibia fracture patterns are different in men compared with women: In the results there is no data to include this conclusion.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'