Reviewer's report

Title: Arthroscopic Partial Meniscectomy in Middle-Aged Patients with Mild or No Knee Osteoarthritis: A Double-Blind, Randomized Sham-Controlled Multi-Centre Trial

Version: 3 Date: 20 November 2012

Reviewer: Morgan Jones

Reviewer's report:

I still think that the authors overstate the impact that their results should have if they show no difference between groups. Certainly every other aspect of their design is outstanding and should impact clinical practice. However, I don't think that the orthopaedic community will accept no difference as a strong enough piece of evidence to stop operating on younger patients with meniscal tear and mild OA. However, a finding of superiority for arthroscopy would certainly increase the tendency to treat these patients surgically, and a finding of superiority for sham would discourage operative treatment.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 am a co-investigator on a randomized trial of knee arthroscopy versus physical therapy for patients with meniscus tear and OA. Otherwise I have no competing interests.