Reviewer's report

Title: Minimally invasive endoscopic treatment for lumbar pyogenic spondylitis: a retrospective study in a tertiary referral center

Version: 3
Date: 17 November 2013
Reviewer: Manabu Ito

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Minor Essential Revisions

This is a retrospective study on the clinical results of lumbar pyogenic spondylodiscitis treated with posterolateral endoscopic surgery. A total of 32 patients are enrolled with very precise laboratory data. The authors used 0.35% betadine solution for intraoperative irrigation. The results and conclusions are sound and reasonable.

This reviewer would like to ask the authors to provide additional information which adds more clinical values to this paper.

1. The authors are using local anesthesia. When touching the outermost annulus of the infected disc and making an entry hole at the anulus, the patients may report tremendous pain. Do the authors use additional anesthetic agents to reduce the pain level in each patient?

2. The degree of destructive changes before surgery in each patient should be evaluated with any imaging classification systems or preoperative local kyphosis. Please provide the information regarding the severity of preoperative spinal destructive changes, too. This information may relate to the failure of this procedure salvaged by anterior fusion.

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'