Reviewer’s report

Title: Does surgery followed by physiotherapy improve short and long term outcome for patients with atraumatic shoulder instability compared with physiotherapy alone? Protocol for a randomized controlled clinical trial

Version: Date: 13 May 2014

Reviewer: Rita M Kiss

Reviewer’s report:

Major comments:
1. Introduction: Please shorten the Introduction, but please extend it by the result of research by motion analysis.
2. Study Objectives: Please provide your hypothesis here.
3. Method: Do you have ethical permission under the Helsinki Agreement? If yes, please write it in the article.
4. Method - Physiotherapy: Please provide more details (with references) about the rehabilitation, specially about the physiotherapy.

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
The author did not summarize the hypothesis of their research. However, the study design is adequate for testing the goal of research.
2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
The research cannot be replicated because the step and exercises of physiotherapy are unknown.
3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
Yes
4. Is the writing acceptable?
The language of the study protocol is acceptable. If the author extended the study protocol, specially with more details about the physiotherapy, the writing could be acceptable.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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