Reviewer's report

Title: Shoulder diagnoses in secondary care, a one year cohort.

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Reviewer: Andrew Östör

Reviewer's report:

The authors have presented a very nice study looking at shoulder diagnosis in secondary care. This is an important area and one which receives little attention despite being so important.

I do have a number of queries/suggestions

1. The authors state that the diagnosis was supported by imaging mostly MRI. One needs to be careful with data from imaging as many incidental findings which may not necessarily be contributing to the symptoms. I bring the authors attention to the following paper which may be of use:

   Validation of clinical examination versus magnetic resonance imaging and arthroscopy for the detection of rotator cuff lesions.

2. In results: Not sure that myalgia is a specific diagnosis. What was causing the myalgia? This is a symptom. Do the authors mean muscle pathology? This requires clarification.

3. One of the limitations of the paper is that the authors only present one main diagnosis where dual (or more) pathology is present in a substantial number of patients. Further justification is required as it is difficult to determine which lesion/s is contributing to the symptoms

4. In Discussion: The authors state that in the Ostor study isometric testing increases the compressive forces in the GH and AC joints thus potentially leading to pain in these areas, is there any evidence for this statement? A reference would be helpful.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
Nil