Reviewer’s report

Title: Pertrochanteric fracture of the femur in the Finnish National Hospital Discharge Register: validity of diagnosis, procedural coding and external cause for injury

Version: 3 Date: 9 December 2013

Reviewer: Michael Davidsen

Reviewer’s report:

This is a nice and thorough research paper on validation of a specific diagnosis in the Finnish NHDR and furthermore of aspects of the NOMESCO classification. The methods are appropriate, the research question is well defined, the data are sound and the analysis and conclusions relevant.

Discretionary Revisions
I suggest to move the first two sentences in the Methods section regarding ethics (paragraph 1) from the beginning to after ‘….an approval of the institutional review board was obtained.’

Minor Essential Revisions
1. It should be made very clear in the methods section that procedural coding was made using NOMESCO.

2. The general variables in NHDR are mentioned in detail a bit too often to my taste – both in the introduction and the methods section.

In the first paragraph of the discussion section the authors use the term ‘reliability’ while they throughout the rest of the paper use accuracy and coverage. I believe they should stick to the latter two.

3. A weakness of this study is that ‘the true coverage of the diagnosis could not be assessed .. as the diagnosis code S72.1 was a selection criterion …’ (discussion section paragraph 4). I feel this fact could be highlighted a bit more because this is a drawback especially when promoting epidemiological use of the NHDR.

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

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.