Reviewer's report

Title: Bilaterality can be ignored when analysing the revision risk of knee prostheses: Analysis of a population based sample of 44 590 patients with 55 298 knee prostheses from the national Swedish Knee Arthroplasty Register

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Reviewer: Birgitte Espehaug

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Second review

Discretionary revisions

- I still have some problems with the title. 'Bilaterality can be ignored...' may be a too strong statement following the analyses. Suggest that 'can be ignored' is deleted.
- Methods, last sentence on page 2: It would also be of interest to know the number of bilaterally operated patients with only one prosthesis revised
- Statistical methods: In my opinion, it may make the equations just as understandable if both patients and prostheses were indexed
- Statistical methods, page 4, line 8: Xi will not necessarily be constant for a subject's bilateral events - the patient may for instance receive different prostheses in the right and left knee
- Statistical methods, page 4, line 1: Here Zi may be interpreted as a set of .... Insert 'interpreted'
- Statistical methods, page 4, line 11: ... penalised partial likelihood method. Insert 'partial'

- Abstract, background line 5: ..., but the assumption is ...
- Background, line 4: ..., but the assumption is ...
- Methods, page 3, lines 1 and 4: Mean cumulative five-year revision risk .... Suggest that the word 'mean' is deleted
- Statistical methods: Suggest that the following of the last sentence is deleted: ..., some of them taking several hours each, on a computer running Linux with a 1 GHz Intel processor.

Competing interests:

None declared.