Reviewer's report

Title: Computer Aided Vertebral Visualization and Analysis: A Pilot Study Using the Sand Rat, a Small Animal Model of Disk Degeneration

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Reviewer: Ville Remes

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

"Computer Aided Vertebral Visualization and Analysis: A Pilot Study Using the Sand Rat, a Small Animal Model of Disk Degeneration"

I would like thank authors for hard work which they have done for revision. I pleased note substantial improvement in the paper. I have below mentioned critics and development suggestions for their paper.

1. I agree with the authors that when you are reporting novel techniques you must very precise in your description. I would like, however, suggest that detailed description of the method would be given in Appendix and mentioned in the "Material and Methods" section only briefly.
2. By the "depth of the vertebra" I meant width. Why the width was not measured? Please discuss or provide measurements.
3. As the procedure will last only 15 minutes I would suggest that the authors would consider the option to increase number of analyzed radiographs as they are available.
4. I feel that comparison to hand made measurements (with ruler or computer) is essential and should be done.
5. I understand the authors answer to concerning the repeatability of the measurements. The do not however report in their paper that repeatability would have been tested.
6. It would been interest to know if authors' method is valid also in unselected material? Have they tested it?

Competing interests:

None declared.