Author’s response to reviews

Title: Exeter total hip replacements 654 primary prostheses, with a maximum follow-up of 20 years

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PDF covering letter
Response to reviewers comments and suggestions

Dr. Stein Atle Lie

Compulsory revisions

1. The survival analyses in the article are standard and precisely presented. However, why do you state in the replies to both referees that the Wilcoxon test is used? The ordinary log-rank test (Mantel-Cox) is present in the SPSS software (in the Kaplan-Meier part of the survival analyses) and should hence be used, it should also be stated in the statistics section of the article.

Comment

The Wilcoxon test is not mentioned in the article. It is however mentioned in our answer to the reviewers regarding their comments on the first version of the article. The reason for mentioning the Wilcoxon test in the commentary to the reviewers was that when preparing the answer, we had used both the life-table method (pairwise comparison with the Wilcoxon(Gehan) test) and Cox Regression. In our answer to the reviewers (but not in the article) we mentioned that both Wilcoxon and Cox regression showed no significant differences between the groups.

Action

We do not feel that this misunderstanding calls for any changes in the text.

2. In the conclusion of the abstract, rewrite the first sentence to: "... with no loss to follow-up for the patients, found revision rates that conform with the large Swedish THR registry"

3. In the second paragraph of the background section. In the second sentence erase the phrase: "with a high degree of certainty".

4. Rewrite the last sentence of the background to: "The primary purpose of this study was to compare the revision rate of Exeter THR's inserted at the FSA with that of other hospitals found in the literature, and furthermore to assess the complication rate by the use of a detailed complication register in a study cohort without loss to follow-up for the patients."

5. In the Methods section, rewrite the third sentence to: "... in Iceland or moved abroad, which none had, after the primary ...".

Comment (revisions 2-5)

These revisions mainly are linguistic in nature.

Action

We have taken the views of the reviewer into consideration and rewritten the sentences mentioned.