Reviewer's report

Title: Exeter total hip replacements 744 hips followed for 2-20 years with no loss to follow-up

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Reviewer: Dr Søren Overgaard

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

General comments
The conclusions drawn are adequate. Insufficient details are given in the methods (see compulsory revisions).

Discretionary revisions
1. Complication rates. Specify which complications are reported.
2. Could any of the patients have been revised in other countries?
3. Age and gender are important parameters in the prognosis of THR. It would be of interest to categorize into age groups and gender although the number of THR included is low.
4. Wound infection. The definition is not strict for infection. Every wound will have a positive culture if secretion.
5. How was pulmonary embolism diagnosed?
6. Explain why very few urinary tract infections were diagnosed.

Compulsory revisions
1. Include only primary procedures.
2. The methods should include: Which kind of Exeter components used, cementing technique, kind of theaters, prophylaxis with antibiotics, prophylaxis against thrombo-embolic episodes, kind of anesthesia, number of surgeons, cement type, approach. Most of these parameters appear in the discussion paragraph.
3. Are there any statistical significant difference between the to survival curves in fig. 1 and 2?
4. The first paragraph of the conclusion belongs to the discussion.
Competing interests:

None declared.