Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing Stability and Change of Four Performance Measures: A Longitudinal Study Evaluating Outcome Following Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty

Version: 1  Date: 16 November 2004

Reviewer: Agustin Escalante

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a solid piece of methodological work. The article is clear and well written. It will be a helpful addition to the literature in the field of performance-based functional measurement.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Readers would likely appreciate a clearer representation of the distribution of the variables studied. Authors are urged to add frequency distribution graphs of each of the tests they studied.

For the fast self-spaced walk test, the dimension that is being tested is the subject's velocity or speed of walking. Speed may have superior distributional properties and may perform better than time. Authors may wish to repeat some of their analyses on the fast walk test, using velocity rather than time.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

It would help readers to include the number of subjects in Table 1. Please provide the distance walked in Table 2, under Fast Self-Paced Walk Time. This can be omitted if authors show walking speed. Please define all acronyms in Tables (e.g. TUG in Tables 2, 3, 4).

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Authors may wish to add data to Table 5, showing the actual values of the baseline tests among completers and non completers of the study protocol.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.