Reviewer's report

Title: Modeling early recovery of physical function following hip and knee arthroplasty

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2006

Reviewer: Olivier Ethgen

Reviewer's report:

General
- None -

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

Page 10, results: What about gender distribution? In addition, we would expect more info about the population: duration of disease, time spent on waiting list, etc.

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

Page 6, first paragraph: This minimized the chance of didacting. This sentence is difficult to understand. Could be clearer.

Page 6, last paragraph: I am not sure I understand the lost of follow up due to the outbreak of Severe Acute... Can we have more details?

Page 7 & 8, measures: The authors present the different measures employed in their study. This part is a little bit disorganized. Would be better to have 1 paragraph for 1 measure;

Page 10, first paragraph: [Snijders, 2002#301] actually stands for reference [38] I think.

Page 11, second paragraph, line 15: Should we understand a floor effect? And not a ceiling effect? Same comment in the discussion, last paragraph page 13.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
- None -

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 interest.

Olivier Ethgen