Reviewer's report

Title: Residive disc herniation after first lumbar disc herniation surgery; a 5-year follow-up

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2006

Reviewer: Mikko Poussa

Reviewer’s report:

General
The paper does not give very much new information about the topics but reflects the management of disc patients needing surgery in a certain area of Finland. It obviously gives a report of uniform indications and surgical techniques in disc surgery.

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

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

The title of the paper is not correct, because in the material there is also disc herniation at other sites, which are not recurrent herniations. In the text there is also a mixture of terms residive, reoperation, initial disc operation, primary operation, reherniation etc. More uniform expression is needed.

It did come clear from the text if the patients were invited to outpatient clinics for follow up study or was the data collected from the patient charts?

In the chapter Introduction the authors say that little is known about reherniations. His statement must be corrected.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No