Reviewer's report

Title: The prevalence of pain and disability one year post fracture of the distal radius in a UK population: A cross sectional survey

Version: 2 Date: 27 May 2008

Reviewer: Allan Donner

Reviewer's report:

I have one major and one minor comment:

Major comment:
The statistical analyses performed by the authors are sound. However in my experience the 36% response rate to the questionnaire is much too low to allow full confidence in the survey results. Although some limited comparisons in baseline characteristics are reported between respondents and non-respondents, in my view this is not sufficient to assure the reader that the reported results are reasonably representative of the population of interest.

The author’s comment on page 16 that the observed response rate "was sufficient to ensure the margin of error for the study was optimal since a minimal sample size of 80 was estimated" also does not allay this concern, since it confuses the role of precision with that of bias.

Minor comment:
The footnote at the bottom of Table 2 which states "unable to calculate OR due to insufficient cases" is insufficiently informative. Aside from the presence of a zero cell, under what circumstances would such a calculation be precluded?