Reviewer's report

Title: The utility of clinical decision tools for diagnosing osteoporosis in postmenopausal women with rheumatoid arthritis.

Version: 2 Date: 7 January 2008

Reviewer: Tuan V Nguyen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revised manuscript which I have gone through. I consider that the manuscript has improved significantly, and that the authors have addressed all issues I raised.

There is however one minor point on the classification of osteoporosis. The authors decide to T score < -1 and <= -2.5 as an outcome measure for both femoral neck and lumbar spine and argue that this is in accordance with suggestions in Kanis et al 2005. In fact, in the field of osteoporosis, T-score from the hip or femoral neck is considered (or recommended as) gold standard (see for example Kanisâ review in Lancet 2002). Kanis on behalf of the IOF (OI 2000) also clearly state that â We recommend that the diagnostic use of T-scores be reserved for DXA at the hip. This is so because measurement of BMD at this site has the highest predictive value of fracture risk. Moreover, lumbar spine BMD is more susceptible to age-related degenerative change (eg osteoarthritis) which can artificially increase BMD measurements and compromise the study result. The authors may care to check the data at the hip only so that their results can be compared with future and past studies.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests