Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgeons' beliefs and perceptions about removal of orthopaedic implants

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Reviewer: Randy Loder

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This is an interesting manuscript. I have several comments.

Wherever the word hardware is used, I suggest changing to implant.

On page 3, they state that most orthopedic fixation devices are titanium. Certainly in the US, at least in pediatrics, most of the fixation devices are stainless steel, except for the titanium elastic nails for femur fractures. The AO DCP plates, screws, etc are all stainless steel. The authors need to clarify their statement.

Table 3, under the column age, is this the age of the patient or surgeon?

Finally, it would appear that most of the scenarios are directed at adults. The authors really need to differentiate between the recommendations for children and adults. Many children undergoing internal fixation for reconstructive procedures (eg. Hip dysplasia, Blount's disease, etc.) will likely need adult reconstructive procedures, and having the implants removed early will make the adult reconstructive procedure less complicated. The authors really need to discuss and differentiate these issues.

If these questions can be addressed, then I would recommend acceptance of the manuscript.