Reviewer's report

Title: Percutaneous balloon kyphoplasty for the vertebral compression fractures

Version: 2 Date: 6 August 2013

Reviewer: Georg Osterhoff

Reviewer's report:

General comments

The authors have made considerable efforts to improve their manuscript and – after minor revisions – I would recommend it for publication in BMC Surgery.

Specific comments

1. Methods:

   page 6, line 7: I still have difficulties to understand your inclusion/exclusion algorithm. I do agree very much with the inclusion criteria described in the revised text. However, if vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty were performed in about four hundred patients per year, did you then exclude 213 (400 – 187) patients due to active infection, neurologic deficit, and uncorrected therapeutic anticoagulation?

2. Discussion:

   page 13, line 17: “number of patients” is doubled

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