Reviewer's report

Title: Sequential Compression Devices in Postoperative Urologic Patients: An Observational Trial and Survey Study on The Influence of Patient and Hospital Factors on Compliance

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Reviewer: Adam Reese

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting study investigating SCD compliance in post-operative urology patients. They assess reasons for non-compliance and factors associated with non-compliance. The article warrants publication but I would recommend addressing the following issues.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In tables 1&3, why are there confidence intervals reported? The authors are simply reporting percentages. For example, if exactly 79.7% of patients in the study were male, there should not be a confidence interval associated with this number.

2. Were patients asked why they were not wearing SCDs at the time of non-compliance? If so, this would likely encourage them to wear their SCDs and falsely elevated compliance rates for the remainder of their hospital stay. This should be mentioned as a limitation.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The introduction is excessively long. I would recommend shortening and moving some of the points to the discussion if necessary.

2. It is not really fair to categorize open, lap/robotic, endoscopic, and pelvic surgeries as mutually exclusive. For example, I'm assuming many lap/robotic surgeries were radical prostatectomies, which also need to be classified as pelvic surgery.

3. Do the questions in table 3 represent the entire survey given to patients? This is not clear. If there were additional questions, they should be presented in the paper as the authors are using a new, non-validated survey.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Why is there a 1-10 scale for the 1st set of questions in table 3 and a 1-5 scale for the 2nd set of questions? This makes it difficult to compare responses to the 2 sets of question. For example, a 3 represents fairly strong agreement in the 2nd set of questions, but only minor bother in the first set of questions.

2. It seems that many of the reasons for non-compliance are nursing related. Are the authors able to comments on the perception, use, and bother of SCD machines from a nursing perspective?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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