Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Influencing Diagnosis and Treatment of Osteoporosis after a Fragility Fracture among Postmenopausal Women in Asian Countries: a Retrospective Study

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2012

Reviewer: Chia-Liang Ang

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions

This study uses a review of medical charts and an interview with the patient in order to establish the practice patterns of managing osteoporosis in an Asian population of postmenopausal women who have had a hip fragility fracture.

The fact that only 13.2% answered yes to "history of fragility fracture" despite the fact that all the patients were admitted for hip fragility fracture cast doubt on the accuracy of the patients' responses. If this question had been about a history of fragility fracture before the patients' admissions for hip fragility fracture, I do not see how this history would be relevant since they all subsequently had hip fragility fractures. Therefore, the conclusions in relation to the history of hip fracture cannot hold ground.

The results in the text and the tables do not tally. In the text, it is stated that 13.2% had a history of fragility fractures; in the table it is 16.1%.

Are the types of payment options standard across the different countries? Otherwise, there might be bias. Could this be the reason why Table 3 shows that there are various associations between payment options and the outcome measures which may be difficult to explain, eg: 100% social insurance is associated with lower OR of having osteoporosis medication, versus other type of insurance is associated with higher OR of having osteoporosis medication.

Again, the accuracy of this survey method is questionable as illuminated by: 316 patients answered that they have had a BMD measurement, whereas Table 4 shows only 256 patients factually had a BMD.

The exclusion of patients who did not answer may introduce bias.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.