Reviewer's report

Title: Postoperative recovery and its association with health-related quality of life among day surgery patients

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Reviewer: Mark Mitchell

Reviewer's report:

This was an interesting paper and I enjoyed reading it and the supporting evidence. Recovery from day surgery has not received much attention from the nursing profession and yet DS is increasing on a global scale.

1) While the Introduction and evidence is presented in a logical format (pertinent references) the Results section and Discussion sections are not as clear. Recovery from day surgery has largely been studied from a morbidity and mortality perspective as suggested although it has also been put forward that many patients are recovered sufficiently between 1 - 2 weeks (hence the first sentence in the Discussion section). This may explain the lack of findings beyond 2 weeks and the need to discuss results that the authors were not seeking (comparison between surgical specialities). The original Post-discharge surgical recovery (PSR) (Kleinbeck 2000) has very brief statements and in-depth data not easily gained. Likewise, the QoL-23. This is reflected somewhat in the findings.

2) The concentration on statistical examination of the scales used, although interesting, detracts somewhat from the study findings. It may therefore have been better to separate this paper into validation of the S-PRS, the, the findings this scale covered. Beyond a difference between surgical specialities and recovery little is currently presented/ recommended.

3) This leads to my final point of what does this paper add? I think more emphasis could be placed on the additional care/ contact orthopaedic patients may require following DS.

Additional Points -

When was this data collected?

It is unclear how many patients were GA/ RA/ LA

Reference needed p.4 2nd paragraph, p14 greater number of orthopaedic patients on analgesia.

ASA paragraph on page 8 seems a little out of place and requires some explanation in the background.

Drop-out rate increased a 30 days because returned to worked and fully recovered? Is 30 days too long a period in which to collect data?

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.