Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment Incidence of and Medical Utilization for Hospitalized Subjects with Pathologic Fractures in Taiwan - Survey of the 2008 National Health Insurance Data

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Reviewer: Henry Mankin

Reviewer's report:

A very interesting and well written article which very clearly describes the incidence, age, gender, anatomic site, diagnostic causation, cost, surgical procedures for a large number of patients with pathologic fractures. The description of the various features of the study are well defined in Tables 1-5 and the text strongly supports the definition of pathologic fractures and their complications.

Several issues would perhaps improve the value of the study:

1. How many of the patients died either of disease or of complications of the surgery and at what time after the initial treatment? Was the death rate different for age, gender, anatomic site, diagnosis of surgical procedure?

2. What were the complications of the surgical procedures? How many patients developed infections, required additional surgery, had amputations, had further fractures, required prolonged hospitalization?

3. It is possible that some Kaplan-Meier types of statistical presentations might be helpful in describing the results.

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.