Reviewer's report

Title: Use of medical tourism for hip and knee surgery in osteoarthritis: A qualitative examination of distinctive attitudinal characteristics among Canadian patients

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2012

Reviewer: Rebecca F Jester

Reviewer's report:

This was a really interesting paper and I'm sure readers will find it very valuable to learn of the experiences of those seeking medical procedures overseas, specifically it should stimulate thought on how local health care providers support the patient in terms of decision making and followup.

There are no major compulsory revisions

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the abstract 1st sentence in the background insert the word is following medical tourism.

2. In the recruitment section of methods its important how the sample size of 14 was determined e.g. had you achieved data saturation at that point.
   4th word should be one not on.

3. In the results section - para beginning In general - you have a couple of typos in the first sentence - consider should be consideration and add of.

4. Under sub-heading wider relevance - 1st line 4th word should be one not on

5. Under sub-heading Limitations-4th line insert to before provide

Discretionary Revisions

1. In the conclusions section of the abstract I feel the word question maybe more appropriate than challenge.

2. In the background - para 5 beginning in this article, lines 12-13 you may wish to expand on the point about patients not viewing surgical intervention as necessary e.g. that they prefer to use conservative options such as analgesia, walking aids, weight loss to manage their symptoms.

3. Results section- sub-heading comfortable health-related decision makers - 2nd para you may wish to consider linking this finding to Rotter's seminal work on locus of control as it appears that the participants had a very strong internal locus of control.
4. Discussion section - para 2 it maybe worth adding a sentence about the fact that older patients than the ones recruited to this study are likely to have more co-morbidities and are at greater risk of complications and this does influence their choice about proceeding with surgery.

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**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.