Reviewer’s report

Title: Income and Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) after Knee Arthroplasty in the U.S.

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Reviewer: Rajiv Gandhi

Reviewer’s report:

It is my pleasure to review the manuscript entitled, “Income and Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) after Total Knee Arthroplasty in the U.S.”

This is a well written and well described paper. My concern is that the findings that low income is associated with less pain but greater dysfunction are not compatible and the findings may simply be spurious.

Minor comments:

Title: do the authors believe their findings from a single institution can be generalized to the entire US ? I think the title should be amended.

Abstract: this line should be edited as the findings are certainly different , At 5-years, numerically similar but non-significant odds were noted”

Intro: The authors write, “ Much emphasis in the previous studies has been placed on implant and surgical aspects of arthroplasty, with very few studies focusing on patient demographics, medical comorbidities and socioeconomic predictors.” However there is a plethora of literature looking at demographic predictors of TKA outcomes including age, gender, obesity etc.

I’m curious to know why the authors had the a priori hypothesis of “but more improvement in function outcomes with TKA compared to preoperative scores.” When the authors state there isn’t any previous literature to guide this.

The methods describe the dataset collecting complications. I think it should be included in this manuscript for the reader to understand the risks and benefits of income on TKA.

Is the Mayo knee questionnaire been validated for use in this population ? I don’t believe the reference given supports this.

Is it necessary to adjust for both ASA and comorbidity? Do the authors find any colinearlity between these two variables?

I find the results confusing. How did the authors determine that low income was associated with greater improvement in knee function?
Why are all the outcomes categorical when the vast majority of TKA literature uses continuous outcome scores? Can the authors use continuous measures for outcomes?

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