Reviewer's report

Title: Optimal Treatment for Spinal Cord Injury Associated with Cervical Canal Stenosis (OSCIS): A study protocol for a randomized controlled trial comparing early versus delayed surgery

Version: 1  Date: 21 June 2013

Reviewer: Wilhelm J Schulte-Mattler

Reviewer's report:

Some minor points are included in the answers below.

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
Yes, if the above mentioned potential center specific effects can be controlled.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
Yes, but some minor points should be clarified:

   p.9, l.10: How will "preexisting gait disturbance due to myelopathy" be determined?

   p.9, l. 11: How will "degree of canal compromise (50% or more canal compromise/less than 50%)" be determined?

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
Yes, but it should be outlined, how center specific effects will be assessed.

4. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes.

Declaration of competing interests:

I do not have any competing interests in relation to the manuscript.