Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrent knee arthritis diagnosed as juvenile idiopathic arthritis with a 10-year asymptomatic period after arthroscopic synovectomy: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 15 April 2013

Reviewer: Toni Hospach

Comments to authors:

Arthroscopy is only in extreme few cases indicated without sufficient response to recurrent intraarticular steroid injection and probably after systemic treatment. Recent literature regarding this procedure has to be added.

As you mentioned, conservative treatments are common for JIA, however, the effectiveness of arthroscopic synovectomy for oligoarthritis has been reported. Especially, arthroscopic synovectomy of the knee was less invasive and brought good clinical results. (Dell'Era L et al. J Pediatr Orthop B. 2008, 17: 128-130. Adamec O et al. Acta Chir Orthop Traumatol Cech. 2002, 69: 350-356.) They do not agree with the view of some authors that surgical intervention is not indicated until erosions are radiologically manifested.

They recommended preventive and therapeutic synovectomy.

We think that arthroscopic synovectomy is one of options of treatment and prevention of bone erosions for JIA.

We have added the following sentence in page 8; Typically, surgical intervention is not recommended until erosions are radiologically manifested.

However, we think that arthroscopic synovectomy is one of options of treatment and prevention of bone erosions for JIA.