Reviewer's report

Title: The Incidence of Total Hip Arthroplasty after Hip Arthroscopy in Osteoarthritic Patients

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2010

Reviewer number: 2

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The manuscript represents a retrospective case series of 564 cases with hip arthroscopy due to osteoarthritis between 2002 to 2009. The hypothesis is that hip arthroscopy can temporarily delay the need for hip replacement. Authors find that younger age, milder arthritis and repeated arthroscopies are associated with a longer time interval between arthroscopy and hip replacement.

The manuscript is well written and represents a large series of single surgeon experiences.

Data analysis seems ok although time dependent analysis with Kaplan-Meier plots and cox regression would be more relevant and provide more detailed information.

The study confirms results from previous studies and what I find is obvious. In the discussion considerations of selection and information bias should be discussed. Surgeons are less willing to perform hip replacements in younger patients with mild arthritis and are therefore more likely offer repeated arthroscopy. The findings in this study are therefore more likely a result of selection bias and the hypothesis therefore cannot be answered in this study. As the authors states in the discussion section functional outcome measures are a more relevant outcome measure then time to hip replacement. In the conclusion “Repeated arthroscopy may provide some clinical short-term benefit” should be changed or deleted as authors cannot draw that conclusion based on the results from this study.

In conclusion this is a large retrospective case series which may be worth publishing although it does not provide the readers with any new information.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.