Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Analysis of surgical and oncological Outcome in internal and external Hemipelvectomy in 34 Patients above the Age of 65 Years at a mean Follow-up of 56 Months

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 22 September 2014

**Reviewer:** Jiong Mei

**Reviewer’s report:**

Thank you very much for submitting this article to the Journal of BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders and for allowing me to be a part of the review process. In this paper, the authors made a retrospective analysis of thirty-four patients who underwent hemipelvectomy at an age of 65 years or older and concluded that hemipelvectomy was feasible in elderly patients, although requiring long hospitalization periods and causing a limited functional outcome. The authors made a detailed description about patient Characteristics, surgery, oncology, functional outcome and complications, and their methods were suitable and results reasonable. However, in this group, 69% of patients who underwent internal hemipelvectomy and 43% in the external group needed revision surgery. In eleven surviving patients, only one could walk freely and the function of ten else was poor. The high complication rates and severe disable functions may not support the application of hemipelvectomy for older patients. The merits and disadvantages of hemipelvectomy for older patients should be further discussed. The number of patients included in the study was relatively small and many reconstruction methods were used for these patients but the function of each reconstruction could not been compared. If more patients could be involved and followed, the results might be more reasonable. Besides, the indications and contradictions of internal or external hemipelvectomy could be clearly stated. Summarizing, I recommend acceptance of the manuscript as worthwhile for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders, but the paper needs minor essential revisions. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of the review for your article.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.