Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of trauma and patient related factors on radial head fractures and associated injuries in 440 patients.

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2015

Reviewer: Sandra Häberle

Reviewer's report:

The present study evaluates the impact of patient related factors and trauma mechanism on the type of radial head fracture and associated injuries. The medical reports and radiographs of 440 patients (single center) were retrospectively analysed.

Background: The authors lead in a concise way to the clinical relevance and aim of the study. The hypothesis of the study is well defined and comprehensible.

Methods: The methods of this retrospective survey are sufficiently described and the statistical analysis is performed in a proper way.

Results: The results are presented in a short and concise way, illustrated with comprehensible, genuine figures.

Discussion: The discussion is well written and structured. The cited literature is up to date.

Minor essential revisions:

It is not specified, how many of the 440 patients received additional radiographs (and what kind of radiographs) because of their clinical symptoms. This (and also the results of the radiographs - associated injury or not) should be addressed in the results or illustrated in a table.

It is difficult to draw conclusions about the incidence of associated injuries comparing patients who did not receive the same radiological studies.

The other patients might not have shown any symptoms of additional injuries in the initial assessment, but without any pictures it is not possible to rule a concomitant injury completely out. We have to rely on the clinical examination of the various residents in the ER. The authors recognised and stated these limitations in the section discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.