Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing incidence of rotator cuff repairs - A nationwide registry study in Finland

Version: 2 Date: 9 March 2015

Reviewer: Gary Hooper

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Minor Essential Revisions

1 I believe that the authors have been too strong in their conclusions that operative repair is no different to conservative management. No where in their manuscript do they give evidence of this. This article is essentially an epidemiological study of the incidence of surgery in Finland, nothing more, it is not a study of the overall incidence of rotator cuff tear and so only careful and considered reference to the value of that repair is appropriate.

2 It seems to me that the incidence of repair in public and private institutions is now equal. Has there been a change in the health system or improved access to insurance or prolonged public waiting time that has equalised these two rates compared to the late 90's? This should be discussed more fully.

3 Discussion section line 143 "both coverage and ??" 

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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