Reviewer’s report

Title: Knee arthrodesis using a unilateral external fixator combined with crossed cannulated screws for the treatment of end-stage tuberculosis of the knee

Version: 2
Date: 9 March 2015
Reviewer: Kaken Habaxi

Reviewer’s report:

1. To treat end-stage tuberculosis of the knee, we can do arthrodesis of knee, debridement, and knee arthroplasty. So why the author use a unilateral external fixator combined with crossed cannulated screws, but not other methods? As the patient with a mean age of 43.7 years, is use a unilateral external fixator combined with crossed cannulated screws was the best way?

2. Before surgery, all patients received anti-TB drug therapy but is every patient ESR and CRP come down? In some cases they may be raised, so is there some different in treatment?

3. How to make diagnosis patient before operation? What will find in pathology? How to make sure it is tuberculosis but not simple infection?

4. How to deal with mixed infection patients?

5. “Recently, the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) has risen in China [1, 2]. Simultaneously, the amount of osteoarticular TB in extrapulmonary TB has also increased, especially in the spine, hip and knee joints[3-5].”

6. We were not see the X-ray and CT of patient?

7. We were not see the patient material, for example: each patient’s age, which side, pre-operation ESR, CRP? No table to show us!

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.