Reviewer's report

Title: Is raloxifene associated with lower risk of mortality in postmenopausal women with vertebral fractures after vertebroplasty?: A Hospital-Based Analysis.

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Reviewer: Hiroshi Kaji

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General comments
In this retrospective study, they examined the effects of raloxifene treatment on mortality in 149 postmenopausal women after vertebroplasty in Taiwan. Raloxifene treatment might be related to a lower mortality rate after vertebroplasty.

Although this paper seems to be interesting, there are several points, which should be addressed.

Specific comments
1. The details of treatment for osteoporosis are unknown in Methods. How was raloxifene administrated for patients? After operation? How long? Dose? How about the other treatments or medication?

   What were the criteria for the selection of raloxifene treatment?

2. Please explain about what kinds of patients receive vertebroplasty in Taiwan in Methods.

3. If possible, please show the BMD data before the treatment?

4. Since raloxifene reduced the rate of infection and sepsis in this study, raloxifene or estrogen action might affect immunological system. This point should be discussed with references in the detail.

5. In Discussion, they claimed that in clinical practice, many patients with vertebral fractures do not receive medical therapy after vertebroplasty. This may be right in Taiwan, but not true in most countries. Discussion should be revised adequately.

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.