Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2
Date: 14 April 2015
Reviewer: Bernhard Rintelen

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper concerning the potential benefit of prescribing Raloxifene after vertebroplasty in Taiwanese patients with clinically manifest osteoporosis. The benefit might be the reduction of mortality especially by reducing infectious diseases. The paper has limitations as described but one more should be added and another suggestion I have:


Major compulsory revision: Secondly, and more important, the results have to be seen considering the fact, that the severity of osteoporosis may have an impact on the result. I found statistics concerning Internal medicine problems and the numbers of vertebral fractures in both groups. However, clinical manifestations e.g. femoral fractures occurring prior to a vertebroplasty or later on are required when mortality is the issue of the study. Are there any data of femoral fractures? If not this issue may have influence on the result and should be discussed. I find numbers of vertebral fractures and that MRI has been done. Do you mean MRI of the region of interest before the intervention or MRI of the whole spine? Are the means of vertebral Fx in both groups found in the thoracic AND lumbar spine?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Speakers Honorary and invitations from Lilly