Title: Mid-term clinical results of primary total knee arthroplasty using metal block augmentation and stem extension in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

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Reviewer: Anders Henricson

Reviewer's report:

First of all it is hard to review articles with no line numbers. This is a nice article concerning the difficult task to solve severe rheumatoid knees with large bone defects. The limitation of having too few cases might be true, however it is probably not many centers that can report 26 knees of this kind. Using one particular prosthetic design is not a limitation in my mind, on the contrary it is a strength to have a design that works good for you.

Major comments:
In Results - all the numbers in the second and third paragraphs would be much easier for the reader to follow if given in a table instead of running text.
In the third paragraph the authors are stating "mean score was 1 point......." there is no explanation in the Methods section what kind of scoring this is. Please clarify.
Last paragraph (still in Results): even if the Kaplan-Meier analysis gives an estimated number of survival, I think it is a little bit too much to give a 10-year survival. The mean follow-up was 6 years and the 95% CI 71.7 to 97.8. This wide CI implies that there are very few cases left at 10 years making the figure 91.6% survival quite uncertain. A 5-6 year survival analysis would be more true, the 95% CI would then be less wide. By the way - I don’t understand the dotted line in figure 1, this line is said to be the CI and is at the 80% level, even if the lower limit of the CI is said to be 71.1%. This needs to be clarified.

Minor comments:
In Discussion - third paragraph - there is no reference after Tsukada et al. Last paragraph - should be intermediate, not intermediated.
Otherwise a good work.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have received funding from The Zimmer Company to be used in a study concerning some NexGen designs. These studies do not in any way interfere with this study of rheumatoid knee replacement.