Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of Bipolar hemiarthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty for displaced femoral neck fractures in the healthy elderly: A Meta analysis

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Yoram Weil

Reviewer's report:

General comments: the topic is of a great interest since this is a common everyday issue. The decision whether to perform a total or a hemi arthroplasty is of paramount importance. Since there are number of modern design studies it is a good idea to pool them into a meta analysis and give the reader an "instant" recommendation regarding the treatment of displaced intracapsular femoral neck fractures.

The meranalaysis is very well designed and seems that a lot of work has been invested in its preparation.

However there are some major issues that need to be addressed:

1. The harris hip score is indeed an important outcome measured but its reliability and validity had been severely criticised due to a "ceiling effect". It is of rather low specificity. Therefore the main "surprise" factor of this analysis is not such a great surprise and I think it is extremely overstated in the conclusions, abstract and results section. If there are other outcome scores in the quoted studies they should be brought as well. The fact that there are no differences in a very heterogeneous group of patients is the least surprising thing. Pain scores, mobility indices and implant survival, as well as reoperations are far more important. Therefore the whole conclusions of this study should be reorganised.

2. Comparing a 65 years old active patient with a 85 years old household ambulator with severe comorbidities is comparing apples with oranges. This is the most important major limitation of the study. The main interest in THA for FNF is due to the former group of patients. Without even trying to stratify the study for the more young, active patient group is a futile attempt. It should be at least tried by all means to create a sort of a stratification of the patient group according to age, comorbidities and preoperative ambulatory status

these are the main concerns that should be addressed prior to consideration for publication

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflict of interest