Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgical Trends in Elderly Patients with Proximal Humeral Fractures in South Korea: A Population-based Study

Version: 0 Date: 13 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Christian Bahrs

Reviewer's report:

General Comments:
Congratulations to this valuable study about the surgical trends in elderly patients with proximal humeral fractures. The point of more operative treatments and especially more reverse shoulder arthroplasty is well taken. Unfortunately, this study cannot serve as a general recommendation in order to improve the outcome after proximal humeral fractures as there is no further information like revision surgeries, infections or the need for assistance after the operative procedure.

The authors should consider adding a diagram with each operation technique, e.g. x-rays.

Line 61-63: Please consider rewriting in a clearer manner.

Line 98-100: „Subsequently, patients who underwent conservative treatment for PHFs were identified as those for whom ICD-10 codes (S42.2) codes were entered, but operation codes were not." What about the patients with multiple injuries and patients who died? Are they categorized as conservative treatment?

Line 146-147: Please include p value.

Line 151-152: Do the authors think, that this is based on the surgical procedure or the fact that patients with higher age rather get arthroplasty as younger patients? Please clarify.

Line 201-203: This should be presented in the method section as it seems to be a bias problem.

Figures 1 -3 have poor picture quality and should address exact numbers as well.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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