Reviewer's report

Title: Vascular injuries of the extremities are a major challenge in a third world country

Version: 1 Date: 7 April 2015

Reviewer: Larry Kraiss

Reviewer's report:

This could be an important report as it may represent the largest series of extremity vascular injuries from a country with a relatively undeveloped medical system.

Major compulsory revisions
1. The limb salvage rates listed in the abstract (54%) and the body of the manuscript on page 5 (41%) do not agree.
2. There is no analysis presented of the factors associated with survival or non-survival and limb-salvage or limb loss. Factors that should be considered include a more detailed analysis of time from injury to revascularization, a more specific study of the relationship of associated injuries with ultimate limb loss, the role of mechanism (blunt v penetrating) in limb loss.
3. Limb loss occurred in 46-59% of the patients. Why? What was the reason for ultimate limb loss when the graft thrombosis rate was only 6.4%?
4. The issues listed above should be assessed with appropriate statistical tests.
5. Would substitute Figures 3 and 4 with data figures generated by the analyses requested above. Figures 3 and 4 as presented contribute little to the manuscript.

My comments re Level of Interest assume that the above issues are answered rigorously. The topic is of potential major interest as a large report of the current state of vascular surgery for trauma in the setting of an underdeveloped medical system.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.