Reviewer's report

Title: Patients' Perspectives of Outcomes after Total Knee and Total Hip Arthroplasty: A Nominal Group Study

Version: 1 Date: 21 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Heidi Lempp

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed many points I have highlighted, but would like further clarifications on the following:

p3/line53: 'open ended patient input', can the authors pls explain this notion, pls?

p4/line 33-34: I think the authors make an assumption here that during the OMERACT project patients may have not felt comfortable due to presence of academics, clinicians etc. How do the authors know how patient representative felt at the time? In my view this assumption is unhelpful.

p4/line 45: pls grammatically correct: ...'AN open ended question...... and then ranked THEM.

p4/line 50: satisfaction of what specifically?

p5/line 8-10: the 'high volume' notion seems to be an American expression, difficult to understand as a European, also as repeated twice, in my view this is unhelpful.

p5/line18: who contacted the non-responders by telephone/email, the surgeons who invited patients initially?

p5/line35: why is marital status important to include in the basic characteristics, what impact did this status have on the outcomes, not clear to me.

p5/line58: what do the authors mean by 'overall satisfaction', this notion is too vague and not clear to the reader in my view.

p7/line16: the data was re-analysed, how is that possible without transcribing the group sessions, this is very unclear to me, how did you include all the accounts (which bring the paper much more alive) how was the process from audiorecorded nominal group meetings to obtaining data handled without transcribing the content of the sessions, resulting in a thematic analysis?

p7/line40: pls provide a relevant reference for the data saturation, this is a very important and delicate point in the qual research method.
p11/line19: why did the author state that this was a 'significant theme', unclear to me, how was the theme more significant to the other ones?

p12/line30:..we sampled from a practice.....', pl change to 'we recruited or invited participants from a practice', as we are dealing with people.

Basic Characteristic Table: pl explain what a home maker is for non-American readers.

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

No

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

No

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

No

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.