Reviewer’s report

Title: Racial Disparities in Pre-Operative Pain, Function and Disease Activity for Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Undergoing Total Knee or Total Hip Arthroplasty: A New York Based Study

Version: 0 Date: 19 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Good study with clear methods. The authors define their study population and aims well. They follow STROBE criteria.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

THA and TKA are completely different procedures, not least from postoperative pain and outcomes perspective. They should not be analysed together especially when looking at pain as outcome. The study makes no attempt at looking at outcomes such as illness perception and pain catastrophisation, factors that influence post surgical pain outcomes. Can the authors further justify their choice of outcome measures? There is no grading of the severity of secondary arthritis and preoperative functional deterioration both of which influence post-operative outcome. The authors look at education levels, which are an important tool but fail to comment on occupational status, which may be a huge motivation to recover from surgical intervention. Can the authors comment on this. Were there any postoperative complications that may have influenced the results?

As the authors point out these results are not generalizable as they represent the New York patient population, perhaps that should reflect in the title.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable
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