Jean-Charles Le Huec

**Reviewer's comment regarding
MS-no: 03/057 entitled:
"Kyphoplasty for treatment
of osteoporotic vertebral fractures:
a prospective non-randomized study"
by U. Berlemann et al.**

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We must thank the authors for presenting this interesting but short series [1]. Two comments are relevant:

- The study is interesting but non-randomized and shows a reduction of kyphosis (47%) with no less of reduction after 1 year. The pain relief after 1 year is comparable to other vertebroplasties.
- The indication for cimentoplasty is never discussed in the paper. The authors based their indications on the risk of impact on patients physical function, quality of life and survival. Unfortunately, there is no evaluation of those criteria in this series except pain. The second point is the indication according to the type of fracture. In the paper

only 10 patients have a local kyphosis angle superior to 20°, and there is no data about the integrity of the median column (according to the Denis classification or other classification). According to this point only 10 patients (or less) among 27 are candidates for this technique, which is very expensive and should be justified by other criteria.

Reference

1. Berlemann U, Franz T, Orler R, Heini PF (2004) Kyphoplasty for treatment of osteoporotic vertebral fractures: a prospective non-randomized study. Eur Spine J DOI 10.1007/s00586-004-0691-7