Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of preoperative suggestions on perioperative dreams and dream recalls after administration of different general anesthetic combinations: a randomized trial in maxillofacial surgery

Version: 2
Date: 21 September 2014

Reviewer: Callum Sleigh

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Minor Essential Revisions:
(the following are all "Minor issues not for publication")

1) In abstract “Main outcome measures”, second sentence, the phrase “Secondary endponint” should be corrected (to “secondary endpoint”)?

2) Study question 3 in the introduction should be “What is the influence..” rather than “What is influence..”

3) Study question 4 is ungrammatical and needs to be rewritten.

4) At the end of the last paragraph in “Grouping of the patients” it seems that the reference should be to “Figure 1” not “Table 1”.

5) Third paragraph in “Assessment of the impact of different perioperative psychotherapeutical interventions…”, there is a typo in sentence “The most powerful effect was observed when a combibation of...”

Discretionary Revisions:

1) Did it matter whether dreamfilm patients communicated with each other, or only whether they communicated with suggestion and control patients? It is unclear whether the dreamfilm patients were prevented from talking with each other during the preoperative day. In particular, whether or not they discussed their respective ‘dreamfilms’. Perhaps this could be clarified.

2) It is slightly unclear to me what the dreamfilm method involved. The patients “were asked to imagine and and produce a film that they would like to ‘watch’”... Does this mean that the patients were asked to imagine and describe a film? Was the description purely verbal? Are there references for previous uses of the 'dreamfilm' technique in the literature?

3) What, exactly, is the difference between the two psychological techniques? After all, they both involve imagining a ‘favourite place’, evoked through the suggestions of the anesthetist. From the descriptions in the article, it seems that the only difference between the dreamfilm method, and the ‘favourite place’ technique, is that the former involves prior preparation/discussion (a day before
surgery) while the latter occurs entirely just before surgery. Perhaps this could be clarified.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.