Reviewer's report

Title: Occurrence of proptosis in contralateral eye in thyroid associated orbitopathy presenting with unilateral exophthalmos: retrospective follow-up study.

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2013

Reviewer: Llewellyn K Lee

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Minor essential revisions:

1. line 68: "Associated features with this event were evaluated" Lack of full stop.
2. line 69: "A cohort of 655 consecutive patients affected by TAO with a minimum follow-up of 10 years." may want to add: "was reviewed", to end of sentence.
3. line 87: "controlateral" spelt wrongly.
4. line 96: "reviews" should be review.
5. line 110-111: "in less affected orbit" should read "in the less affected orbit".
6. line 111: "in fellow eye" should read: "in the fellow eye".
7. lines 114-117: "Hence, this study aimed to assess only how many patients visited in a tertiary referral orbital clinic with TAO have asymmetric presentation with the clinical appearance of unilateral proptosis and how many of those patients develop progression on the less involved side." It may make more sense if this reads: " This study aims to assess the patients who were referred to a tertiary orbital clinic with unilateral TAO, and how many in this group went on to develop contralateral involvement".
8. line 134: "over the time" should read: :over time".
9. line 137: "Data were extracted" should read : "Data was extracted".
10. line 148: "for the statistical analysis" should read: "for statistical analysis".
11. line 150: "by senior ophthalmologist" should read: "by senior ophthalmologist".
12. line 154: "Hertel" should read: "Hertel".
13. line 155: "Two observers routinely perform reading" should read: "Two observers routinely performed readings".
14. line 156: "A asymmetric" should read: "An asymmetric".
15. line 174: "author’s" should read: "authors".
16. line 193: "To evaluate the influence of of age" should read: "To evaluate the influence of age".
17. line 196: "group of patient" should read: "group of patients".
18. line 198: "with time" should read: "over time".
19. line 201: "desease" should be "disease".
20. line 216: "on proptotic eye" should read: "in the proptotic eye".
21. line 217: "on fellow eye" should read: "in the fellow eye".
22. line 218: "proptosis. (worst" no need for full stop here.
23. line 226: "statistical significant" should read: "statistically significant".
24. line 227: "in a length of time" should read: "over a length of time".
25. line 239: "5.1mm), in 19 patients" . comma should come after "in 19 patients".
26. line 249: "previous described criteria" should read: "previously described criteria".
27. line 255: "who not" should read: "who were not".
28. lines 290-294: "This is supported by the fact that CT imaging picked up some sign of contralateral involvement in this study patients despite no clinical signs; however, quantifying those signs to perform a statistical analysis resulted uneventful due to the retrospective setting of the present study." needs explanation/clarification.
29. line 307: "For those presenting proptosis" should read: "For those presenting with proptosis".
30. line 311: "both group" should read: "both groups".
31. line 314: "in-group 2" no hyphen needed.
32. lines 316-318: "progressed through a bilateral proptosis have worse disease in general, this could be suggested by a trend even in the absence of statistical significance depending on the p value" should read: "progressed onto bilateral proptosis have worse disease in general, and this could be suggested by a trend even in the absence of a statistically significant p value".
33. line 323: "displayed" should read: "occurred"
34. line 327: as in point 12 above.
35. line 338: "there was not significant difference" should read: "there was no significant difference".
36. line 348: "Rootman'" should read: "Rootman".
37. line 351: "younger patients tend to have" should read: "younger patients who tend to have".
38. line 355: "In our study impact smoking history" can omit impact.
39. line 366: "presented inactive orbitopathy" can omit presented.
40. line 377: "since they need" should read "since they needed".
41. line 380: "Our data support the view that the less-prominent and clinically less-affected" should read: "Our data supports the view that the less prominent and clinically less affected".
42. line 383: "as it could be expected" should read: "as would be expected".
43. line 384: "hypothesis" should be plural: "hypotheses".
44. It would be good if the authors could have pictures of CT orbits of patients in the study, to demonstrate how they came up with the measurements for exophthalmos.

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

**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