Reviewer's report

Title: The relevance of long head biceps degeneration in the presence of rotator cuff tears

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2010

Reviewer: laura ruzzini

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In the results section, in the Group IV (Cuff arthropathy) paragraph, the authors state that VEGF expression was not significantly higher (p>0.05): do they mean that it is not higher comparing with groups II and III or comparing with control group (if this is the case there is significant difference as stated in fig 1a)? Need to be clarified.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Immunochemistry should be changed in Immunohistochemistry
2. In the statistics paragraph the authors state that "ANOVA and modified least-square difference test were used to evaluate the differences between the experimental and control sites and between the different time points." I don't find time points in your experiment settings. Need to be clarified.
3. In the Results section there is a repeated and wrong sentence: "Mean age of the patients was 62 (39-78) years". Which is the real mean age of this group? Need to be clarified
4. In figures 1 a-c and 2: significance marks should be added in the figures.
5. In figure 3 legend: straining should be changed in staining

Discretionary Revisions
1. Materials and Methods: In the patients section I think it should be stated clearly in what the classifications used consist (Ellman and Bateman)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'