Author's response to reviews

Title: Temporomandibular joint disc repositioning using anchor: an effective method to treat internal derangement in stage to

Authors:

ShanYong zhang (zhangshanyong@126.com)
XiuMing Liu (X.M.Liu@yahoo.com.cn)
XiuJuan Yang (X.J.Yang@126.com)
Chi Yang (yangchi63@hotmail.com)
MinJie Chen (M.J.Chen@126.com)
Majd S Haddad (M.S.haddad@uiowa.edu)
ZhuoZhi Chen (Z.Z.Chen@hotmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor:

Thank you very much for publishing my paper in your Journal last year, and giving me the opportunity to revise my paper (1249876804304315). The paper was carefully revised according to the reviewers’ comment. I hope my paper will be published in your Journal again. If you need further information about this paper, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Yours Sincerely

ShanYong ZHANG, MD, DDS
Department of OMS
Ninth People’s Hospital
School of Medicine
Shanghai Jiaotong University
Zhi-Zao-Ju Rd., No. 639
Shanghai 200011, P.R.China
zhangshanyong@126.com
Reviewer's report
Title: Temporomandibular joint disc repositioning using anchor: an effective method to treat internal derangement in stage III to V
Version: 4 Date: 19 December 2009
Reviewer: Tomislav Badel
Reviewer's report:
Minor Essential Revisions
1. The final words of the title are not legible: “....in stage # to #”. I also suggest a revision of the title: “Temporomandibular joint disc repositioning using anchor: short-term follow up by magnetic resonance imaging to treat internal derangement”:
   We changed the title into “Temporomandibular joint disc repositioning using anchor: short-term follow up by magnetic resonance imaging to treat internal derangement” according to the Reviewer's comment.
2. Abstract should be more focused on the topic of the study. In the first sentence (Background), it should be precisely explained what is difficult for the patients, it is recommended to avoid expressions like “unfortunately”, “international community” and “very difficult”.
   For the abstract (Background), according to the Reviewer's comment, we rewrite this part, which more focused on the topic of the study. The original manuscript is “The international community has been using arthroscope in the treatment of TMJ disc displacement, unfortunately, the technical requirement was relatively high, so it was very difficult for the patients in the late stages of ID, especially those with severe disc deformation or thickening bilaminar tissue. This study presented a surgical technique that used a bone anchor to stabilize the TMJ disc, and MRI evaluation was conducted to assess the disc position. We changed it into “Minimally invasive surgery (endoscopic) has been used to treat temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disc displacement by some international scholars since the 1990s. The common characteristic of these surgeries was the use of suturing traction to replace the disc to the normal position. However, postoperative imaging examination confirmed that most of the displaced discs had not been replaced. A close study of the representative methods of the United States (McCain, 1994) and Japan (Ohnishi, 1991) since 1994, reveals that more than 90% TMJ displaced discs were not replaced to normal position. It was more difficult to replace the disc to normal position under the arthroscopy for the patients in the late stages of internal derangement (ID), especially those with severe disc deformation or thickening bilaminar tissue. This prompted us to redesign the new technique and to replace the disc. And until now, no study has been reported to evaluate the success of this technique. In this study, we presented a surgical technique that used a bone anchor to stabilize the TMJ disc, and to assess the disc position using MRI evaluation.”
3. The first sentence in Methods should be rewritten: avoid expressions in the first person (we) and state which department and institution this study comes from.
   We state this study comes from" the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ninth People's Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.”
4. In the Abstract body, full expressions should be given which will be shortened after first writing (temporomandibular joint (TMJ), etc.). The abbreviation CPM should be written as a full expression because it is not mentioned again in the Abstract. We changed TMJ into **temporomandibular joint (TMJ)** and the abbreviation CPM into **continuous passive motion (CPM)**.

5. In the text, the following sentence “The procedure and the MRI evaluation were conducted at the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ninth People’s Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine with the use of a disc anchor in TMJ disc-repositioning surgery” should be moved to the Methods chapter.

   We moved “the procedure and the MRI evaluation were conducted at the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ninth People’s Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine’ to the Methods chapter (at the end of the second paragraph).

6. In Methods ‘The mean duration of ID…’ clinical characteristics of ID should be explained as well as the including criteria for patient selection and indications for the surgical treatment. We explained the clinical characteristics of ID in the Methods chapter as the following: **The clinical characteristics of ID mainly contain snapping, pain, jaw dysfunction or movement restriction [7]**

7. In Table 1, the first line in Stage II should be eliminated. We eliminated the first line in Stage II in the Table 1.

8. In the chapter Results the meaning of ‘poor success’ should be elaborated on as well as the MRI or clinical criteria chosen for re-treatment: ‘A second open surgery was performed for those 3 patients and satisfactory results were obtained finally.’ In the results, we added the sentence **3.70% of the joints (3/81) were evaluated as poor, in which the disc was not replaced.** The MRI or clinical criteria were referred to the reference 12.

9. Discussion is focused on various aspects of surgical treatment of TMJ disorder; there is no discussion about other, less invasive, nonsurgical and also effective treatment modalities. Some data about the relationship between MRI findings related to patients and asymptomatic volunteers should be given. Other treatment modalities aim to improve TMJ function, without intervention in the anterior displaced articular disc. In this paper, stronger criteria for the patients who require surgical treatment should be given.

   In the discussion, we mainly talk about the surgical treatment using anchor. In this paper, the criteria for the patients who require surgical treatment had already been given in the methods.

Language is satisfactory, with only minor revisions necessary.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.