Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 19 December 2009

Reviewer: Tomislav Badel

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Minor Essential Revisions

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“

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”. 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. 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. The relationship between MRI findings and clinical signs before/after the surgical procedure should be pointed out in the Abstract.

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.

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.

In Methods, information should be provided in consecutive sentences as opposed to the final paragraph on page 5: ‘The procedure was carried out in the following sequence: #The patient was put under general...“

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

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.’

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.

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.