Reviewer's report

Title: Post-traumatic glenohumeral cartilage lesions: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2008

Reviewer: Ar-Tyan Hsu

Reviewer's report:

This is a systematic review of the post-traumatic GH articular cartilage degeneration / lesions as consequences of different traumatic events. Information provided may be of interest to the readers of this journal.

Reviewer's Comments

Points to consider:
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes.
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes
3. Are the data sound?
   Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   No.
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   No
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes
9. Is the writing acceptable?
   No. The manuscript needs to be edited for English.

Specific Comments:

Minor Essential Revisions
Major Compulsory Revisions

I The manuscript needs to be edited for English.

I Page 5, 1st paragraph, the 2nd abstract selection criterion. Articles had to discuss the effects of traumatic events on Glenohumeral cartilage degeneration. Why was this criteria needed? Since many of the articles selected were based on cadaver studies. Inclusion of discussion on traumatic events on glenohumeral cartilage degeneration in research reports with data collected from cadaveric materials which did not include the history of injury and might not provide much credence to the argument unless in vitro experiments were conducted.

I Page 7, lines 3-4. Since this is a review article, please cite the source of Figure 2.

I Page 7 lines 6-8. The location of the humeral head defect is dependent on the mechanism of injury. Defects are reported posteroinferior, inferior or central. Suggest reverse the order of statement for these 2 sentences and followed by the relationships reported between the location of the humeral head defect and the mechanism of injury.

I Page 7. 2nd paragraph, lines 1-5. This sentence needs rewording. Chronic traumas. Selected papers were categorized into 3 categories as was suggested by Jobe and Jobe: i) ii) iii)

I Page 7, paragraph 2, lines. It is reported, for example, that shoulder muscles are powerful stabilizers [37]. This sentence is somehow odd to appear in the results.

I Page 9, 1st paragraph, lines 3-16. These statements appear not related to the
cartilage lesions. A sentence or two in the purpose statement may be required.

Page 10, 2nd paragraph, lines 4-5. In a second case, glenohumeral cartilage degeneration is a cause of chronic overuse and is associated to other pathologies of the shoulder joint as RC injury, instability and impingement syndrome. Suggest revise to: In the second case (chronic trauma), glenohumeral is a result of of the shoulder joint such as RC injury.

Page 11, 1st paragraph, lines 1-10. The content in this paragraph is repetitive and awkward to read. Please rewrite.

Page 11, 1st paragraph, lines 10-16. In these sentences, the causes of RC tears were discussed. Suggest focusing the discussion on the cartilage lesions.

Page 11, 2nd paragraph and page 12, 1st paragraph. The effect of age was discussed in this paragraph, yet the influence of age on the cartilage lesions was not reported in the results section. Either add the effect of age in the results section, or delete this paragraph completely.

Page 12, paragraph 2. It seems that this paragraph may not relate to the issues at hand and should be deleted.

A discussion of the limitations of this systematic review may be necessary.

Recommendation for publication

Major revision needed before resubmission.