Reviewer's report

**Title:** Factors influencing the length of the incision and the operating time for total thyroidectomy: a prospective survey

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 8 May 2012

**Reviewer:** Oliver Thomusch

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors F. Consorti et al presented the manuscript "Factors influencing the length of the incision and the operating time for total thyroidectomy: a prospective survey".

Overall, 97 procedures were analyzed. The authors detected that the length of the incision was strongly correlated with gender, thyroid volume, neck circumference and clinical diagnosis. On the other hand, the duration of the procedure was only weakly correlated with gender and neck circumference. The performed multiple regression analysis depicted that the length of the incision could be explained by various influencing factors in about 60% but only 20% of the variance of the time for the operation. The authors concluded that thyroid volume was the major factor for the chosen length of incision but the length of incision had only a minor effect on the duration of the procedure. They suggested that more thyroidectomies could be performed with shorter incisions.

Overall, the presented study is very small and had some deficits in the design. Finally, the addressed question is sufficiently answered and the data are well analyzed.

The presented results are sometimes presented in a little bit confusing fashion. It would be much more easier for the reader, if the authors could be more focused to the problem (factors influencing length of incision).

The presented tables are a little bit too much. Figure 1 is excellent and depicts the main message of the manuscript.

Table 1 and 2 could be eliminated. The results should be described in the text. The rest of the factors are part of the logistic regression analysis and these results should be separately presented for length of incision and duration of the procedure.

**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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests