Reviewer's report

Title: 3D-Ultrasonography for Evaluation of Facial Muscles in Patients with Chronic Facial Palsy or Defective Healing: a Pilot Study

Version: 2  Date: 15 March 2014

Reviewer: Masahiro Komori

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Page 6, in the paragraph of “3D Ultrasonography”: Please include a photo depicting the probe coupling with the linear mover, or a subject being measured with the motorized 3D US acquisition system because it is rather difficult to visualize the system.

2. Page 9-10 in the paragraph of “facial muscle volume on …..“: Please clarify total scanning area and area in which muscle was identified: Although colored areas in each measured point seemed to be various, I wondered if that indicated muscle area visually? However, the paper described that the system didn’t detect the whole volume of muscle. At the point of view, the colored area means muscle atrophy or just not identifying muscle with the system? How wide is the transducer?

Minor Essential Revisions
3. Page 7 line 10: “2-3” should be removed from “Figure 1A 2-3”, which was left in the modification of the manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions
4. Page 9 line 4-10 and table 1&2: Please change the initials of patients to the patient or case no. for the protection of personal information and to more easily understand the relations among tables, figures and text.

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.