Reviewer's report

Title: Obliteration of radical cavities with autogenous cortical bone; long-term results

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Reviewer: Dirk Beutner

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe long term results after obliteration of radical cavities with autogenous cortical bone. This paper is of general interest and... But I would strongly encourage the authors to clarify some points.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Please include a short statement to the surgical obliteration technique performed. What technique is used for meatoplasty? Do, and how do they cover epitympanic bone pate?

2. What is the diameter of the entrance of the ear canal? This relationship between entrance and cavity is key for a dry and selfcleaning cavity and in evaluating the volume of the cavity. The entire paper lacks a discussion of this issue.

3. Without providing detailed data to ossicular reconstruction techniques and relate hearing results to the tympanogram, the ABGs are of limited use, besides long term stability. The paper would definitely benefit from this analysis.

4. The authors do compare the cavity size (n=72) with the contralateral ear (n=52). This is acceptable in cases of an contralateral unoperated ear. But within the study group (n=70), at least 2 of them probably underwent surgery of the contralateral ear. Please provide some information on that.

5. How do they standardize tympanometry. Because deeper insertion of the device can account for smaller volumes. Furthermore, how do they test in case of the perforation?

6. CDW should be CWD in Table 1

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'