Reviewer's report

Title: Periodontal conditions in patients with Marfan syndrome - a multicenter case control study

Version: 1  Date: 1 October 2013

Reviewer: ali cekici

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is well written and consists of valuable information on a rare systemic condition. This research may supply sufficient data lacking in the literature on Marfan’s Syndrome.

However I'd like to highlight some important aspects regarding the material and methods of the study.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1- The periodontal status of the control group is not mentioned in detail in the material and methods section. The mean and standard deviation values suggest that the control group was chosen according to a certain criteria. What was the inclusion criteria for the control group in terms of periodontal condition?

2- Periodontal examination does not include an index for detecting plaque accumulation. This data seems to be necessary for this kind of evaluation, since authors mentioned in the discussion that, the crowded teeth to be the reason for plaque accumulation which leads to the increased inflammation. Also in the methods section the timing of the periodontal screening is not mentioned.

3- The questionnaire results were mentioned very briefly in the manuscript. Especially the TMJ disorders were found to be more common in the Marfan’s Syndrome patients when compared to healthy controls. I’d strongly recommend that the authors should display the results of the questionnaire with an additional table.

4- DMF-T and DMF-S values cannot be seen through out the text. I’d strongly recommend that the authors would create a table of a graph to display these findings.

5- Table-1 includes the definitions of the periodontal screening methods used during the study. I’d recommend that the authors would consider to give this information in the text instead of creating a table.

6- In the conclusion section “Marfan patients then in patients without MFS. MFS patients do not reveal more periodontal damage, a higher prevalence of periodontitis or suffer more frequently from severe forms of periodontitis (e.g. aggressive periodontitis).” . This interpretation seems to be too generous to make according to the methods and patient selection of this study. I’d recommend the authors would limit their conclusion in terms of this fact.
7- In the conclusion section “Taken together, it is recommended that Marfan patients should receive a professional oral hygiene on a regular basis due to their increased risk of endocarditis.”. If the authors would like to tie their results to the fact that Marfan’s syndrome patients are more likely to develop endocarditis, it would be necessary to supply some detailed data from this group of patients are found to be in greater risk for developing endocarditis. An alternative conclusion should also be considered, since the only data on endocarditis available in this study seems to be extracted from the questionnaire.

**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