Reviewer's report

Title: Root resorption, treatment time and extraction rate during orthodontic treatment with self-ligating and conventional brackets

Version: 2

Date: 27 December 2013

Reviewer: Michael Wolf

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript entitled “Root resorption, treatment time and extraction rate during orthodontic treatment with self-ligating and conventional brackets” describes an retrospective clinical study in which the impact of self-ligating (SL) and conventional (Non-SL) brackets on apical root resorption, treatment time and extraction rate was investigated.

This research topic is interesting and potentially significant with the comparison of two bracket systems of common use in orthodontic treatment. It is also laudable that the presented data covers a high number of patients (213 in total) which are included in this study. However, as identified by the following points, the manuscript in its current form has some minor deficiencies which should be correct in order to enhance the quality of this work.

Minor Essential Revisions

In particular,

1- There are 7 tables demonstrating facts and results of the present study. To my opinion, there is a need to concentrate some information and also to make use graphs for data presentation in order to facilitate the understanding to the reader. Especially tables 4 and 7 are difficult to understand for the unexperienced reader.

2- Table 1 and 2 provides information on a similar topic and could easily be condensed to one table.

3- Within the material and method part, the information whether the used self-ligating type of bracket is “active” or “passive” is missing. Please add this information to the M&M part of the revised version.

4- To my opinion a more detailed focus on the believed and often discussed benefits of self-ligating brackets in contrast to conventional systems with special regard to the believed biomechanical advantages in combination with root resorption in orthodontic therapy within the discussion part of the manuscript would be favorable.

Discretionary Revisions

5- I suggest the authors to add an additional X-ray image (OPG) to figure 1 in order to illustrate the measurement method which was used to evaluate the amount of root resorption. Possibly, additional photographs (intraoral or
schematic illustrations) of the tested bracket types (self-ligating / conventional) could be added.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflict of interest