Author's response to reviews

Title: A new technique for mandibular osteotomy

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir

Thank you for your message concerning the manuscript "A new technique for mandibular osteotomy" submitted to Head and Face Medicine. I would like to thank particularly to the referees who so carefully reviewed the manuscript and provided useful suggestions for its improvement. I am now submitting a manuscript modified according to their suggestions, please find below detailed answers to the comments.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Edela Puricelli

Referee: Dr Johannes Kleinheinz

Minor Essential Revisions
- page 3, line 18: Schuchardt instead of Schudart
  Answer: Corrected
- page 5, line 2: masseteric-pteriygoid sling
  Answer: Corrected
- line 9: oscillating instead of reciprocating
  Answer: In surgical practice, when this technique is applied, the author uses the reciprocating saw, that makes curved osteotomy easier, preventing thus the occurrence of lesions in tooth roots. We would therefore prefer to keep the term "reciprocating saw" in the paper.

Discretionary Revisions
- The author should add a comment on the risk of a bad split with this technique and on the management in cases of mandibular rotation where a pronounced shear of the fragments can occur. I would like to encourage the author to submit a second paper on this technique including data of the cephalometrical and clinical results.
  Answer: In Conclusions, third paragraph, the sentence "The same situation applies..." was replaced by "The same happens in atypical fractures that may eventually occur, involving the basilar region of the proximal fragment. The use of a larger miniplate will certainly give stability to the fragments." We believe that the suggestion was thus incorporated in the text.

Referee: Dr Ulrich Meyer

Minor Essential Revisions:
- The artwork may be shortened.
  Answer: We consider the suggestion interesting. However, since the editors did not recommend decreasing the number of illustrations, we chose to keep the original number, believing that the readers may benefit from more opportunities to appreciate details and results of the technique.