Reviewer’s report

Title: Three lateral osteotomy designs for bilateral sagittal split osteotomy: biomechanical evaluation with three-dimensional finite element analysis

Version: 3 Date: 29 November 2009

Reviewer: Johannes Kleinheinz

Reviewer’s report:

Takahashi et al. present a FEA-study to show the biomechanical behaviour of different osteotomy lines and fixations in the mandible. The topic is of great interest because up to day there is no consensus about the optimal splitting and fixation technique.

The study is well conducted and written. There is a clear and logical structure in the study design and the results are presented concise. The discussion is comprehensive and is considering the current literature.

There are a few remarks and change requests:
1. page 1: address of corresponding author is missing
2. the abstract should not extend over one page
3. change the word lesser into less in all the text
4. please indicate in the discussion clearly that these results only refer to the miniplate fixation technique and not to screws or semirigid systems

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