Reviewer’s report

Title: Immunohistochemial study on the expression of von Willebrand factor (vWF) after onlay autogenous iliac grafts for lateral alveolar ridge augmentation

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Reviewer: Johannes Kleinheinz

Reviewer's report:

The authors have commented on the substantial concerns but were not really able to convince the reviewer of the improvement of knowledge by the paper.

1. The title ‘Immunohistochemial study on the expression of von Willebrand factor (vWF) after onlay autogenous iliac grafts for lateral alveolar ridge augmentation’ meets the content of the investigation. This study, however, does not provide any novel scientific knowledge or even allows for clinical consequences. The detection of vWF alone without any histological or functional context appears more as an accidental by-product than as a well-considered study concept.

2. The authors recognize their methodology as ‘one weakness of the current study’ and allude to ‘further studies’ to strengthen their results then. One wonders what other weaknesses the authors suspect in their work.

Other relevant results as the detection of VEGF, VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2 were published in a previous manuscript. This policy of spreading a few results on as many thin articles as possible seems quiet pathetic. It is not consistent to argue with previous published papers without considering that the results should be based on the same protocols to allow comparison or extension of the statements.

Minor essential revisions:

3. This article focuses on the description of vWF expression and not on vascularization or angiogenesis. Therefore a few changes in the text should be made:

Page 15... vWF as a marker protein for the immunohistochemical study of endothelial cells (instead of angiogenesis)

...nevertheless, the increased expression in the ROI „recipient site“ emphasizes the pattern of increased presence of endothelial cells (instead of revascularization from the host site to the bone graft)
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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