Reviewer's report

Title: The oral mucosal surface and blood vessels.

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2013

Reviewer: Arja Kullaa

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The question is not new, but important

2. Material and methods: Significantly more detail is needed re: the selection criteria, age and gender of volunteers and so on.

3. The first part of the study (the area of the oral mucosa) is not relevant for research.

The study of the mucosal blood vessels and the comparison with scanning electronmicroscopy is good; however, mucosal blood vessels of the floor of the mouth are necessary to investigate and to compare to other parts of the oral cavity.

4. The authors are encouraged to submit comparative images that are of equivalent magnification for comparison. All images enclosed are different magnifications.

5. The discussion and conclusions are not adequate;

“The results showed that dorsal side of the tongue comprises a large proportion of the total oral mucosal surface” and “…the back of the tongue plays an important role in the oral resorption of drugs”. The authors do not pay attention to the structure of the dorsal tongue; hairs of the filiform papillae prevent the underlying mucosa, so the authors must use other methods to point that this conclusion is really true.

6. A thorough revision for grammar and structure is required.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests