Author's response to reviews

Title: Branch Facial Nerve Trauma Following Superficial Temporal Artery Biopsy: a case report.

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear JMCR Editorial Team,

I greatly appreciate the time and effort all of the reviewers have invested in this manuscript and all of their thoughtful and helpful suggestions. Please see below for my specific comments. All suggestions have now been incorporated in the manuscript and the changes have been highlighted in red. I additionally noted a mistake with the details of reference number 8 that I have now corrected. Also, in revising the manuscript I came across an additional reference that has now been added.

Reviewer: (Bernhard Schaller)

1. Incision recommendations and variant anatomy of the facial nerve have been discussed in more detail. Also, it is now emphasized that the standard eye brow incision is usually quite safe in skull-based surgery.
2. A table has been added of previously reported cases.

Reviewer: (Mohamed Hamidou)

1. The mechanism of facial nerve palsy is discussed more detail, including the possibility of edema, nerve section, and vasculitis. Also, the question of pre-operative clopidogrel is addressed.
2. Experience of our senior surgeon at our local institution with STAB is now stated in the paper.

Reviewer: (Gregory Chang)

1. I have tried to decrease the overall word count. In particular parts of the patient’s past surgical, family, social, and occupational history not directly relevant to the main point of the manuscript have been deleted.
2. The term "mild facial palsy" has been changed to "branch facial nerve trauma".
3. A brief discussion of expected disproportional facial motor involvement due to upper motor neuron involvement versus preferential upper face involvement (branch facial nerve) is now added.
Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Rison, M.D.