Reviewer's report

Title: Laryngeal mask airway reduces incidence of post-operative sore throat after thyroid surgery compared with endotracheal tube: a single-blinded randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 08 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Susanne Sujatta

Reviewer's report:

4. P6L1 How much experience in this specific field had the anesthesiologist performing ETT intubation?

Reply: Thanks a lot for your reminding. The two anesthesiologists both inserted FLMA successfully for over 200 times. We added this to page 6 line 5.

=> The question focussed on ETT not FLMA.

5. P6L16 Train of Four, number of ETT attempts and C/L status would have been interesting at time of ETT insertion to exclude vocal cord injury during intubation via technical failures.

Reply: Since the FLMA and ETT was inserted by experienced anesthesiologists, all the insertion was successful at the first attempt. We totally agree that we'd better detect vocal cord injury during intubation. Although we didn't evaluate Train of Four or C/L status, we think patients enrolled in this trial did not have vocal cord injury, since no one had postoperative prolonged hoarseness or buckling.

=> Since a risk of difficult intubation of at least 5 to 8% is to be expected in this patient group, it is an astonishing result to be able to successfully carry out the ETT for each patient right from the start.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments
which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal