Author’s response to reviews

Title: Velopharyngeal closure analysis using four-dimensional computed tomography: A pilot study of healthy volunteers and adult patients with cleft palate

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Reviewer 1. Discuss role of imaging using these ref


Response: Thank you for this comment. There are several studies that have used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study velopharyngeal insufficiency and velopharyngeal closure patterns. We have added a few references to studies that estimated velopharyngeal closure function using dynamic MRI (p.11). The recommended article is related to a completely different disease, i.e., OSA. Thus, we decided that providing reference to a more closely related study would be more appropriate (references 12 and 13).
Comment 2. English language correction through the manuscript

Response: Thank you for your advice. We have used an English proofing service. We have also attached a certificate of language proofing.

Comment 3. Update of references as most of references are old

Response: The use of 4D-CT for the evaluation of velopharyngeal insufficiency and velopharyngeal closure patterns is not yet common. References regarding MRI studies in this field have been added (references 12 and 13). Reviewed articles referred to in the Background section are the gold standards (references 10 and 11) or the first articles in their respective fields (references 3-7). It is difficult to change these references because of their validity. We hope that the reviewer and editor understand our perspective.

Comment 4. Add the unique of this study compared to other studies discuss the same issue

Response: We appreciate the reviewer’s suggestion. We think that the kinematic analysis of the individual anatomical structures associated with velopharyngeal closure is the unique point of our study. This point is clearly stated in the Discussion section of the manuscript. This point is stated in clearly addition to first edition (p.14).