Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between postoperative cough and thyroidectomy: a prospective study

Version: 0 Date: 17 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Kyung Tae

Reviewer’s report:

1. In this study, the control group included patients who underwent superficial parotidectomy, submandibular gland excision, branchial cleft cyst excision, or thyroglossal duct cyst excision. However, the excision of thyroglossal duct cyst might influence the function of larynx or oropharynx because the body of hyoid bone is removed and it abuts the larynx. Also the excision of branchial cleft cyst might be related with the function of vagus nerve or pharynx because 2nd branchial cleft cyst may be in contact with the vagus nerve or pharynx. Therefore, authors need to exclude patients with thyroglossal duct cyst and branchial cleft cyst in the control group.

2. The LCQ was done preoperatively and at 2 weeks postoperatively. Therefore, it is not chronic cough. Authors need to modify the title of the manuscript.

3. The postoperative cough can be caused by the laryngitis or laryngeal trauma related with the orotracheal intubation. Therefore, it may be necessary to examine the larynx using flexible laryngoscopy after operation in the control and case groups.

4. Actually, the exact cause of cough after thyroidectomy is not determined yet. Therefore, authors do not speculate the causes of cough in the Discussion.

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

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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 organization 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