Reviewer’s report

Title: Lacrimal passage irrigation in children with Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis: A five-year retrospective study

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Anthony Hall

Reviewer's report:

The authors have studied a difficult group of patients and attempted to assess the role of NLD irrigation with steroids and antibiotics in children with SJS or TENS

The paper could be improved in several important ways

Methods

1. Line 111. Were all patients included. I.E. was enrolment consecutive?

2. Line 114. were there any age restrictions on enrolment?

Line 126. was the presence of dry eye assessed again in the chronic stage?

3. Line 129. How were patients randomised? This is especially important to determine of there were any possible biases in enrolment.

4. Line 140. when was the late irrigation performed? Was this through the lower punctum or the upper or either? How was obstruction defined? How was epiphora determined?

Results

How many of the patients had obstruction acutely? I.E. At the time of the twice weekly lavage with steroid and antibiotics were patients obstructed then and if so how was this managed? this is important to determine what , if any, is the role of mechanical syringing and what, if any, is the role of the steroids and antibiotics.
Discussion.

Discussion is needed regarding possible enrolment bias. were just bad patients enrolled as it was thought they might benefit. were milder patients enrolled as they may have been easier to syringe? This needs to be addressed.

The Cause of any possible benefit of syringing needs to be addressed. Was it the mechanical lavage that provided the benefit or was it the steroids or the antibiotics?

**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.

No

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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