Reviewer’s report

Title: Biomechanical comparison of a novel transoral atlantoaxial anchored cage with established fixation technique - a finite element analysis

Version: 2  Date: 5 July 2015

Reviewer: YU SUN

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have done a great job. The cage+plate devices have been used worldwide for the procedure of ACDF with excellent clinical and radiological outcomes. The authors put the device into C1-2 facet joint one each side and fix the cage with screw into the lateral mess of C1 and C2. The strength of the screw against pulling-out power is depended upon the angle and the length of the screw. The author need to describe the surgical procedure including the enter angle and the length of the screw. The cortex of the articular process is very hard and transoral procedure does not have enough space to manipulate the instruments. How does the surgeon deal with these problems? The authors need to provide more information.

Minor Essential Revisions.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.