Reviewer's report

Title: Outcomes of arthroscopic debridement of isolated Ligamentum Teres tears using the iHOT-33

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Reviewer: Karlmeinrad Giesinger

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written article and I would like to congratulate the authors to this work. Isolated Ligamentum Teres tears are rare and therefore are rarely an indication for hip arthroscopy alone. Unfortunately this retrospective study lacks a control group. I have serveral questions regarding this manuscript:

Line 50: Around 80% had no intraarticular hip pathology on MRI scans. What was the minimum time of failed conservative treatment for unexplained groin pain to proceed to surgery? Please specifiy.

Line 79: Please give the range of the score. Important for readers who are less familiar with the iHOT.

Line 100: I would think that the limited number of 37 patients in your study and 6 who underwent mild chondroplasty for chondral damage is far to small to claim that chondropathy did not affect patient outcomes. The statistical power for this statement seems far to low. Please clarify or omit this statement as it is lacking any grounds.

Line 111: '... the Ligamentum Teres' role as a secondary stabiliser of the hip joint.... proprioceptive function.....' Do you have a hypothesis why resecting this proprioceptive stabiliser results in improvement?

Line 102: Please provide the revised patient's iHOT-33 pre-OP, after the first scope and after the revision scope. Any significant improvement with revision surgery? Clearly this is only a single case but it may well be of interest to the inclined reader.

Line 172: The lack of a control group seems a considerable limitation in this situation - especially in the light of the lack of clear criteria and a clear time line of conservative management. Please make that limitation more obvious. Unfortunately this is a major limitation of this study.
Line 173: 'managed conservatively' - for how long? This is especially important since half the patients recall a trauma. Traumatic injuries generally also have a tendency to improve over time - so time is an important issue here. Please be more specific. In Line 172 you state that most of the patients included had been unsuccessfully managed non-operatively with PT before surgical intervention. How many patients had operative management without previous conservative management? Were these individuals patients with a recent traumatic injury? Were these the patients with normal MRI scans (I guess there is an 80% chance for it)? Please clarify and describe the group who had surgery with no conservative management before more in detail.

**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.

No

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

Yes

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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

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