Reviewer’s report

Title: Vertebral column decancellation in Pott's deformity: use of Surgimap Spine for preoperative surgical planning, retrospective review of 18 patients

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Reviewer: Ajoy Prasad Shetty T

Reviewer’s report:

Introduction:

Inadequate: 1) what are limitations of the traditional methods. 2) Advantages of surgimap in other deformities. 3) Paucity of literature on the use of surgimap in TB kyphosis. 4) Spelling mistakes.

Material methods

Inclusion criteria: should clearly define whether the patients had healed TB or in the late stages of active TB.

Exclusion criteria:

SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC., DOES MENTION THAT PTS WITH ACTIVE TB EXCLUDED, ALONG WITH PTS WITH FUSED THORACIC & LUMBAR SPINE. HEALED TB USUALLY PRESENTS WITH FUSION OF 2 - 4 FOUR VERTEBRAE AS A SINGLE MASS.

How was the plain radiographs taken (standing or supine) - It would be difficult to get a standard standing radiographs in Pts with ASIA C neurology.

The authors do mention that "it was checked whether VCD was sufficient IF not VCR was planned". This is in contrast to the statement in introduction That VCD is superior to VCR in correction of deformity.

TO correct - pts had previously underwent an initial debridement (see attachment of the article - highlighted by colours)

One patient had transient neuro deficit was it recognized intraoperatively

The technique of VCD described is almost like PSO, The middle column also is removed as depicted in the diagram (but it is mentioned that the middle column acts like a hinge).

Need at least one more case eg with K angle of 100 degrees especially of thoracic spine.
Discussion

How was the use of surgimap software useful in planning the wedge & how the plan was carried intraoperatively has to be discussed.

The paper should discuss more on the benefits of the use of surgimap software & less on the advantages of VCD.

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

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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