Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristics of Cervical Sagittal Parameters in Healthy Cervical Spine Adults and Patients with Cervical Disc Degeneration

Version: 0 Date: 26 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Sebastian Decker

Reviewer's report:

- Some grammar mistakes are evident.
- The first two sentences taken together do not make sense.
- "Normal" is very unprecise. You should choose some other wording. What is the definition of "normal"? Healthy?
- Spelling mistake in the headline.
- There are also some other reasons that cause neck pain besides loss of cervical lordosis. These should be listed for completeness.
- Please already refer to figure 1 as many readers will not be familiar with the parameters.
- Like with the sagittal profile of the spine, also disc degeneration depends on the age. At some age, almost everybody will have disc degeneration at some point. This needs to be stated to prevent from confusion especially as it is still under discussion what shape of the spine is "normal" for which age. It can really be discussed if a patient with 50y of age and not even a little bit of disc generation can still be called "normal".
- Was there a limitation of the number of degenerative segments or did you include all patients in the DG group from 1-7 level degeneration? This will cause a heterogenic control group.
- As we know from the literature, the basement of the spine is the pelvis. Abnormalities in the pelvis or lumbar region will also influence sagittal parameters of the cervical spine. I.e. a reduced lumbar lordosis will cause the patient trying to get the thoracic spine back with respective impact on the cervical alignment. Therefore, for me it is crucial to include global spinal alignment parameters such as PI, PT, SS, SVA and LL to get an idea of the Population being analyzed.
- Please do not mix up balance and alignment which are different aspects.
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.

Unable to assess

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 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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