Reviewer’s report

Title: Preoperative radiographic and clinical factors associated with postoperative floating of the lesser toes after resection arthroplasty for rheumatoid forefoot deformity

Version: 1 Date: 22 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Makoto Hirao

Reviewer’s report:

Authors claimed in this paper that postoperative dislocation of lesser toes MTP joints are relies on great toe condition. That is thought to important point, however there are some issues that should be clearly addressed.

Table 1: I think this table is not required in the paper. That is completely same as reference 17. Please erase that.

Great toe condition: This explanation includes many factors. How about the sesamoid dislocation? Hardy classification? How about the 1st MTP joint destructoin? Larsen Grade? How about the postoperative (after arthrodesis) HV angle of 1st toe? These factors also should be discussed in the study.

DISCUSSION: P9 Line 2176-219. Authors suggested the hypothesis for the relation ship between RA disease activity and the severity of HV defromity. How about the association/correlation between preoperative and/or postoperative DAS28-scores and preoperative HV angle, Larsen grade of 1st MTP joint, and Hardy grade?

DISCUSSION: What is the strategy for the results against the instability of lesser toe MTP joint after the surgery? Preservation of metatarsal head by means of the mass effect of the metatarsal head? Some shrinkage methods for the loose soft tissue around the lesser toe MTP joint/capsule? Please explain that. It is very interesting.

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.

Yes

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

Acceptable

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None

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