Reviewer's report

Title: Pre-operative factors correlated with arthroscopic reparability of large-to-massive rotator cuff tears

Version: 0 Date: 25 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Fabian Plachel

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript "Pre-operative factors correlated with arthroscopic reparability of large-to-massive rotator cuff tear". The submitted manuscript describes a retrospective study reporting the reparability of large to massive RCTs in 66 cases. Although the effort of this study was high with, there are still several flaws in this manuscript that prevent it from publication in your journal. Therefore, it is my recommendation to reject this manuscript.

First, three surgeons performed rotator cuff repair and no information is given about their experiences, introducing uncontrolled, potentially confounding variable. The findings would have been strengthened if this was a single surgeon design. Second, the methodology is not clearly described. Although the authors stated that tear size was confirmed using a probe arthroscopically, there is no mention of intraoperative assessments. Third, the novelty of this study is limited as previous studies are available demonstrating the correlation of preoperative factors on the reparability of RCTs. In my opinion, a robust discussion and comparison to the literature is lacking. The authors mention, for example, "our study included clinical, radiographic and MRI parameters to analyze the correlation with reparability of large-sized and massive rotator cuff tears" (page 10, line 328). Unfortunately, no clinical results are presented. It would be interesting for the readership if there are clinical (e.g. ROM, strength) or behavioral/psychological factors influencing further rotator cuff repair. Based on these remarks and those detailed in my previous review, it is my recommendation to reject this manuscript from publication.

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.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess
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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