Reviewer's report

Title: Surgical management of sacral meningeal cysts by obstructing the communicating holes with muscle graft

Version: 0 Date: 11 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Authors performed a retrospective review of a case series of patients with sacral cysts by obstructing the communicating holes with muscle graft. They concluded that this technique was useful to decrease symptoms intensity. The study is interesting and well performed with minor issues.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

I have some minor comments: first, the way authors evaluate the symptoms is not clear - the Neurological Scoring System is useful but I would recommend to group symptoms in - S1 symptoms vs S23 disorders (sphincter, sexual, bladder). The score is difficult to interpretate. Another comment is about the way authors discuss other surgical techniques for sacral cysts. Many surgical series report good outcomes. I would tone down the conclusions about the efficacy of their technique once there is no comparative studies.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Yes, see my comments above.

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.

No

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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