Reviewer's report

Title: The Posterior-Anterior-flexed View is essential for the Evaluation of Valgus Osteoarthritis. A prospective study on 134 valgus knees

Version: 0 Date: 05 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Anastasios D. Georgoulis

Reviewer's report:

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IT IS A VERY INTERESTING AND CLINICAL USEFULL PAPER PUBLISHING WORTHY. IT WILL HELP SURGEONS FOR A BETTER DECISION CONCERNING CONSERVATIVE OR OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF ANLATERAL OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE. THE BIGEST ADVANTAGE IS THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT KNEES WITH LESS VALGUS DEFORMITY NEED THE PA FLEXED X RAY PICTURE TO SEE THE CARTILAGE DAMAGE OF THE POSTERIOR ASPECT OF THE LATERAL FEMORAL CONDYLE. THE STUDY WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE IF THERE WERE A COMPARISON HEALTHY GROUP TO FIND OUT HOW IT IS IN A HEALTHY POPULATION. BECAUSE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PERFORM HAVE THE CLINICAL EVALUATION OF THESE PATIENTS USING A SCORE. IN THIS WAY WE WILL HAVE AN IDEA WHEN WE HAVE TO ORDER AN ADDITIONAL X-RAY PICTURE IN THESE GROUP OF PATIENT AND MUCH MORE IF THIS CARTILAGE
NARROWING IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE COMPLAINTS OF THE PATIENTS AND THE DECISION FOR AN OPERATIVE TREATMENT. VERY INTERESTING WOULD BE A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND THE RADIOLOGICAL ONE. ANOTHER QUESTION IS IF THEY HAVE AN EXPLANATION HOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A VALGUS DEFORMITY IN AP X RAY PICTURES WITHOUT CARTILAGE DAMAGE. THE CLARIFICATION OF THESE QUESTION WOULD IMPROVE THE CLINICAL USEFULNESS OF THE PAPER.

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