Reviewer's report

Title: Revision surgery for instrumentation failure after total en bloc spondylectomy: a retrospective case series

Version: 0  Date: 25 Jun 2020

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigated the revision surgeries in patients with instrumentation failure after total en bloc spondylectomy for metastatic spine tumor. They found that patients in 42.6% experienced instrumentation failure and bony fusions were achieved after revision surgery using the posterior approach in most patients.

The data is analyzed in detail and will be of interest to spinal surgeons and clinicians treating malignant tumors. There are several concerns. We advise the authors to include these points as new paragraphs in the manuscript.

1. Could you show intraoperative findings such as location of obvious pseudoarthrosis, presence of metallosis in the results section or tables? The information might be helpful for performing appropriate reconstructive procedures.
2. I think the authors should show body mass index or body weight, because of important factors on breakage and tolerance periods of implants.
3. After revision surgeries there were bone fusions in 72% patients, this rate was good results, considering in the patients with once instrumentation failures. I would like the authors to discuss why the rate of bone fusion was high and whether it was associated the rate with more rigid instrumentation in revision than in the initial surgeries. Then, please describe your recommend selection of instruments such as three or four rods, anterior struts from these findings in discussion.

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Yes
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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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