Author’s response to reviews

Title: A comparative study of intraoral versus retromandibular approach in the management of subcondylar fracture

Authors:

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THE COMMENTS OF THE REVIEWERS

Reviewer

1. Comment: Please give a reference for classification of condylar fracture

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We added the reference for the classification of condylar fracture.

2. Comment: The sentence starting "written consent" is not clear to the readers. Please rewrite that sentence indicating that you have taken written consent for the type of surgical procedure and publication of their photographs and radiographs. Please also explain how did you randomly assign the patients for these two surgical procedures.
Authors: We entirely agree with the reviewer’s opinion. and thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We rewrite the “written consent” and did not randomly assign the patients. If the patient had subcondylar fracture visited in the prof. Nam’s outpatient time, the patient was treated using the transoral approach and if the patient visited in the prof. Park’s clinic time, the patient was treated using the retromandibular approach.

3. Comment: The sentence starting "All patients under went mandibulomaxillary fixation (MMF)" gives an ambiguous explanation to the readers. Please re-correct this sentence explaining the time you placed the bone-anchoring screws and MMF with 0.4mm steel wire (it should be 0.4mm stainless steel wire). I believe that you placed the MMF after reduction of the fractures before plate osteosynthesis.

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We changed the sentence of MMF procedure.

4. Comment: Indicate how and why did you evaluate the dental occlusion via review of photographs (indicate what type of photographs)

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We performed photograph using self-cheek retractor and added the photograph to help reader’s understanding in figure 2.

5. Comment: Two sentences here starting with "patients were placed on liquid diet" are contradictory. How did the patients managed a soft diet if you kept the MMF for seven days? Please also explain exact time period you started MMF on these patients after the surgical procedure.

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We detailly explain that our procedure such as MMF and diet schedule.
6. Comment: When did you removed the extra oral sutures those who under went retro-mandibular approach.

Retro-mandibular approach:

Did you place the MMF after reduction of the fractures before plate osteosynthesis

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. In retromandibular approach, the skin incision was sutured with No 7-0 Nylon and the Nylon was removed 5 days postoperatively. The rubber bands of MMF is removed 7 days postoperatively and the bone-anchoring skeletal self-drilling screw of MMF were removed 6 weeks posoperatively.

7. Comment: please mention 27 gauge wire in mm since you have indicted MMF wire in mm. please indicate how many screws you placed on a four hole titanium mini plate.

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. In transoral approach, the fractures were fixed using the 4 hole mini plate and 4 screw. We added the figure 1 to help the reader’s understanding about transoral approach and attached the agreement from Copyright clearance center.

8. Comment: Sentence starting with "radiological followup" - why did you take all these radiographs to follow up these patients. Please indicate exactly how many radiographs you ordered for each patient and reason behind it.

How did you revealed the ipsilateral deviation on mouth opening radiographically.

How many patients did you treat with active physical therapy after the surgical procedures. Did all of your patients under went mouth opening physiotherapy and for how long?

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We detailly explain our radiological follow-up schedule. We changed sentence from ‘radiology revealed the ipsilateral deviation’ to ‘clinical examination’. We are sorry for a typing error. During the follow up
periods, 2 patients presented the ipsilateral deviation on mouth opening, so mouth opening physiotherapy conducted in only 2 patients. The patient that had not ipsilateral deviation did not performed mouth opening physiotherapy.

9. Comment: This sentence is contradictory to your inclusion criteria. What condylar neck fracture patients you include in this study in addition to the patients with sub-condylar fractures?

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We apologized a typing error. We changed the sentence form ‘only patient with condylar neck and subcondylar fracture’ to ‘only patient with subcondylar fracture’.

10. Comment: The sentence starting "As the dissection" should change in to "Although the dissection".

Please revise the cost difference of $25 as indicated before

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We changed the sentence according to reviewer’s recommend. Also we explain the payment system in Korean health care system.

11. Comment: The authors rightfully cited their previous publication [19] on this topic but might have still added some figures for the most "crucial" steps in both surgical procedures also in this manuscript to prevent the reader from needing to search for and look up the authors' previous publication. Please add some figures depicting the surgical procedure if the journal provides no restrictions on the number of figures.

Authors: We thank the reviewer for the very useful comments. We added the figure 1 to help the reader’s understanding about transoral approach and attached the agreement from Copyright clearance center.