Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0  Date: 15 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Rohana De Silva

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your article. I would like to pay your attention to the following areas of the article before submitting again for publication.

Methods:

Please give a reference for classification of condylar fractures.

Line 17 - 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.

Line 27 - 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.

Line 36 - Indicate how and why did you evaluate the dental occlusion via review of photographs (indicate what type of photographs).

Line 46 - 51 - 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.
Line 54 - 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.

Trans-oral Approach with angulated screw driver system:

Line 22 - page no 8 please mention 27 gauge wire in mm since you have indicted MMF wire in mm.

Line 44 - please indicate how many screws you placed on a four hole titanium mini plate.

Results:

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Line 19 - 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.

Line 24 - How did you revealed the ipsilateral deviation on mouth opening radiographically.

Line 29 - 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?

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Line 17 - It is difficult to understand why there is only $25 difference even though there is a difference of 36 minutes of the surgical time. This may only apply to your health system and may not be applicable to other countries. For an example, in New Zealand most instances surgical time is charged in one minute intervals and there will be a big deference in the final fee for these two surgical procedures. Please revise this statement for international readers(in the discussion as well).

Discussion:
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?

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

Please revise the cost difference of $25 as indicated before.

Consent for publication:

Please revise the two sentences since they are not grammatically correct.

Figure 1 - Does not show the incisors of the patients though you mentioned inter incisal distance. It is no value and please omit this. I feel including too many radiographs for this publication is unnecessary and please use either plain radiographs in two planes (panoramic and modified Towne's) or 3D CT scans for one patient for each surgical procedure (pre and post operative).

Please do not use figure 7B since you have used one screw for the proximal segment and kept a free hole of the plate over the fracture line which can lead to plate fracture with time.

**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.

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.
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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