Reviewer’s report

Title: Prospective international multicenter observational study of Novosyn® Quick for skin closures in adults and children (SKINNOQ)

Version: 0 Date: 05 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Giulio Sozzi

Reviewer's report:

In this study, Gfroerer et al. attempted to evaluate the performance of a newly released fast absorbable braided synthetic suture (Novosyn® Quick). The authors conducted a prospective, non-interventional, international, multi-center single-arm cohort study to assess intraoperative handling, wound healing outcomes and postoperative patients’ satisfaction of Novosyn® Quick for skin closures. The population was composed by adults and children, who underwent elective skin closures. Two centers enrolled 100 patients, of which 50 were adults (visceral surgery, France) and 50 were children (pediatric surgery, Germany).

The results suggest that Novosyn® Quick is safe and effective for skin closure in both samples.

However, there are some points that might be clarified:

1) Local infection is one of the most frequent complication in skin sutures. Therefore, it's necessary for the authors to specify the rate of peri-operative antibiotic prophylaxis administration.

2) In Table 2, before the list of the various types of surgical procedure, it would be useful to divide the interventions in superficial surgery and deep surgery.

3) In Table 3 it should be specified in how many cases the sutures was longitudinal, transversal or oblique. Infact, it's known that different suture lines are associated with different tensile forces, which significantly impact on the final outcome of the suture.

4) As the aesthetic appearance of the skin sutures is significantly influenced by the management of subcutaneous tissue. Authors should specify whether they have closed the subcutaneous tissue systematically, selectively or if they have never sutured it. These data could be showed in Table 3.

5) Moreover, the authors have to specify in the discussion that this kind of suture can be considered as an option particularly for very short suture as emerged from their study.
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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