Author's response to reviews

Title: Terminal dribbling in male patients with lower urinary tract symptoms: Relationship with International Prostate Symptom Score and intravesical prostatic protrusion

Authors:

Jae Heon Kim (piacekjh@hanmail.net)
Ji Sung Shim (colllateralll@gmail.com)
Hoon Choi (doc71377@gmail.com)
Du Geon Moon (dgmoon@korea.ac.kr)
Jeong Gu Lee (jeongkl@kumc.or.kr)
Je Jong Kim (jjkim98@korea.ac.kr)
Jae Hyun Bae (urobae@genetherapy.or.kr)
Jae Young Park (jaeyoungpark@korea.ac.kr)

Version: 2
Date: 31 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2015

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Reviewer's report

Title: Terminal dribbling in male patients with lower urinary tract symptoms: Relationship with intravesical prostatic protrusion and International Prostate Symptom Score

Version: 2  Date: 23 July 2014
Reviewer: fabrizio presicce

Reviewer's report:
The paper has the merit of investigating a topic little discussed but commonly seen in clinical practice.

Abstract
Minor revisions:
Line 4 and line 20 I think that the words "factors" and "each symptom of IPSS" can be better replaced by "parameters" and "each question of IPSS".
→ The words were replaced and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Methods
Major revisions:
Line 18: Authors wrote "LUTS patients" without well-defined criteria for inclusion in this category.
→ The phrases were added and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Line 22 "as a result, data from 189 men..." Usually the number of patients included in the study should be counted in the results.
→ The sentence was removed as the reviewer suggested.
Lines 35-39 Authors considered in the evaluation of IPP, its presence or absence, however, as suggested by some authors, the IPP distance can also be divided into three grades: grade I: 0-4.9 mm; grade II: 5-10 mm; grade III: more than 10 mm. Have the authors information between the grade of IPP and its relationship with terminal dribbling? Furthermore IPP’s evaluation can be characterised by intra- or inter-observer variability and learning curve is yet available. In the manuscript information about who conducted the examination lack.

→ We performed the analysis between the grade of IPP and its relationship with terminal dribbling, but the significant relationship was not found. All procedures were performed by Urology residents in our hospital at that time. USG examination depends on the examiner’s experience, therefore all the TRUS examinations were supervised by attending physicians. It was added in the manuscript.

Results

Minor revision:

Line 71: “prostate volumes” should be “volume”.

→ It was changed and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Discussion

In my opinion the criteria adopted by the authors to evaluate the presence of terminal dribbling are arguable. I refer in particular to the absence of uroflowmetry in the evaluated parameters and the employment of a single question of ICS questionnaire (a composite questionnaire designed to assess BPH related symptoms overall), however the authors well underlined these limitations.

→ We totally agree with your comment. Therefore, we re-review the medical records including UFM data and add it into the manuscript.

Major revisions:

Lines 133-135: I did not find this statement in the cited work
These are the screen capture of the cited article which our manuscript is based on. We changed the sentence little bit to be more consistent with the cited work (highlighted).

Minor revisions:

Line 105: “LTUS” should be “LUTS”.

→ It was changed and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Lines 108-109: the sentence should be reworded in a more fluent.

→ It was changed and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Line 128: “analyses” should be “analysis”.

→ the sentence was totally changed and highlighted.

Lines 129-132: this sentence is unnecessary.

→ the sentence was removed.

Conclusions
Minor revision:

Line 140: “prostate volumes” should be “volume”.

→ It was changed and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Table 1

Major revisions:

Except for the age, for the other evaluated parameters it is not clear if the value in the table is a mean or a median

I suggest: i.e. PSA (ng/ml), median value [IQR]; IPSS total score, mean ± SD

→ It was changed and highlighted as the reviewer suggested.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer's report

Title: Terminal dribbling in male patients with lower urinary tract symptoms: Relationship with intravesical prostatic protrusion and International Prostate Symptom Score

Version: 2 Date: 26 July 2014

Reviewer: Costantino Leonardo

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors are to be congratulated for their work because TD is not well studied in literature. Unfortunately, the aim of this manuscript is not clear. There are a lot of missing data such as pressure flow study that it is necessary to assess BOO (at least uroflow is mandatory). The results presented are underpowered due to small sample (only 39 pts with TD).

We made an intensive review of the medical records including UFM data in more patients. As a result, the total number of cases reached to 578 including 226 cases with TD.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below