Reviewer’s report

Title: Improvement in Early Urinary Continence Recovery After Robotic-assisted Radical Prostatectomy Based on Postoperative Pelvic Anatomic Features: A Retrospective Review

Version: 1 Date: 11 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The study was nicely done and relatively well written. The MRI measurements at a 3 month postoperative time point in all of these radical prostatectomy patients is to be commended. The findings of membranous urethral length correlating to early urinalysis continence is a confirmatory finding to know published works that predate this study.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

I would highlight a few issues that the authors should consider evaluating and adding to their manuscript. Consider reporting and assessing prostate cancer grade, stage, or risk strata in the statistical models evaluating for associations with early continence. There are countless studies suggesting more wide resection done for higher risk cases results in higher rates of urinary incontinence. Additionally patient BMI should be similarly evaluated as previously noted to be a risk factor for higher I continence rates. The discussion is also a bit limited. Are the data on neurovascular bundle preservation available for analysis, even if only hypothesis generating? Additionally, please consider augmenting discussion to include other proposed mechanisms of optimizing uronav control postoperatively including puboprostatic ligament preservation, reconstruction of the distal apex, and reapproximating the peritoneum and bladder anteriorly.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

See above.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?

As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

Please note that we may not be able to use your review if no comments are provided.
Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included as text in the ‘Comments to Author’ box.

Yes

**Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?**
Please state in the ‘Comments to Authors’ box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please explain in the ‘Comments to Author’ box below.

No

**Are you able to assess the statistics?**
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?
Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the ‘Comments to Author’ box):

I have been able to assess all of the statistics in this manuscript (please refer to checklist above)

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in the ‘Comments to Author’ box below.

No

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

Acceptable

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blogs and/or press releases. Please indicate in the text box below whether you think this manuscript should be considered for promotional activity, indicating your reasons why (e.g. what is the most newsworthy aspect of the research).

No

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3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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