Reviewer’s report

Title: Optical puncture combined with balloon dilation PCNL vs. conventional puncture dilation PCNL for kidney stones without hydronephrosis: a retrospective study

Version: 2 Date: 09 May 2019

Reviewer: Federico Soria

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting manuscript on optical puncture in undilated kidneys. A series of comments are made to improve readers' understanding of this amazing manuscript.

Title. The word "Optical puncture" seems more appropriate than "visual puncture".

-Abstract. Background. The first sentence could be deleted. The definition of kidney stones in a Urology journal does not seem to contribute anything to the readers.

-WHY authors use the Grignon’s grading, it is more common to use the SFU classification "Society of Fetal Urology"?

-In multitude of phrases authors describe the "ureteral catheters" it would be better to use double jota or pigtail ureteral stents, to avoid a mistake with the ureteral catheters for pyelography.

-Discussion.

The authors should make an effort to shorten this section. Since many topics are dealt with that are tangential to the study and are not directly related to this manuscript. As for example with the tubeless and the type of magnetic puncture.

-In the phrase "it would result in a potential risk of infection". Authors should change to include "septicemia".

-References.

-There is an excess of publications in Chinese (34%) , which is impossible to assess. Papers in English should be included to improve understanding of the manuscript.

-References should be updated especially on issues such as magnetic puncture (Urolithiais 2014, 2017...etc.).

The images should be revised or removed, they do not contribute anything for the low quality.

-Authors should correct a multitude of typographical errors.
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

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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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?
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**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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No

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