Reviewer’s report

Title: Horizontal Ridge Reconstruction of the Anterior Maxilla using Customized Allogeneic Bone Blocks with a Minimally Invasive Technique - a Case Series

Version: 0 Date: 01 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Hassan Maghaireh

Reviewer's report:

interesting paper but there are some issues that should be addressed and require the attention of the authors, before publication—

-- all cases are in the maxilla and are of horizontal augmentation. please specify this in the title, in the abstract, in the text (intro, m&m inclusion criteria- results- discussion- conclusions)

-- please provide a better background for this study in the intro-- why biomaterials should be customized? what are the benefits for the clinician and most of all, for patients? it is not clear here

-- in the m&m, please provide more info about the biomaterial used, and the limits in the dimension of the blocks (did you have a limit in size/shape, related to the risk of not adequate blood perfusion?

if the scaffold is too big it is difficult to have perfusion

-- please expand the results, info about the quality of the custom-made scaffolds are required- do they fit well?

-- discussion, once again please provide a background and do not discuss only about the tunnel technique and its related advantages. please discuss the new approach first and then, the surgical technique

-- limits of the study: why did you use allografts? the use of allografts may involve risk for the patient according to the recent literature, i know this point is extremely controversial but this should be stated as a potential limit of the study in addition there are other limits such as n° patients, n° surgeries performed, and limited follow-up control 3d rec are beautiful to see but without any histologic
sample as control we actually do not know if it is bone or biomaterial there, in addition allografts show a contraction in volume along the first year after placement according to the recent literature, all these aspects should be properly discussed.

finally, why didn't you mil the scaffold using a milling machine, instead of adapting it manually? i believe this is another limitation of this clinical research. please introduce a paragraph with all limitations of this 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.
I am able to assess the statistics

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