Reviewer’s report

Title: Health Related Quality of Life: a retrospective study on local vs. microvascular reconstruction in patients with oral cancer

Version: 0 Date: 04 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Mario Pérez-Sayáns

Reviewer's report:

The authors have checked the impact of oncology surgery in oral squamous cell carcinoma in quality of life. The manuscript is well-written and is easy to read, from the beginning to the conclusions. The introduction goes direct to the point with clear and concise objectives. M&M are well-described, specifying all the variables analyzed and evaluated in the study and describing the limitations in terms of sample size. I suggest to the authors to include the limitation of surveys in this kind of projects. Results are well-expressed and the statistical analysis seems to be well-developed in terms of parametric parameters. I propose to link the last two tables, all-in-one. Although this is not the first study based on quality of life after oral oncology surgery, this paper tries to explain the differences between two different reconstruction techniques and even in terms of location of the tumours. From my point of view, the values of the questionnaires are quite high in both group, but we do not have any reason to put in doubt these results. On the other hand, I urge to the authors to analyze the effect of the time after surgery in HRQOL, dividing the sample in more groups than 1year, because more than 50 % of the patients, asked the questionnaire after 1 year; for example 6 months, 12 months, 18 month and 24 months. Hence, I will recommend to publish this paper after these minor changes.

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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Acceptable

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