Reviewer's report

Title: Sinusitis and Oroantral Fistula in Patients with Bisphosphonate-associated Necrosis of the Maxilla

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Reviewer: Andrew Hinson

Reviewer's report:

Voss et al present a cohort of patients with medication-induced osteonecrosis of the maxilla and concomitant maxillary sinusitis (AAOMS Stage III). All 12 of their patients underwent complete resection of the necrotic bone and subsequent layered closure. One patient did return with exposed bone at follow up. However, there were no signs of concurrent sinusitis. Additions to the literature include: 1) The authors highlight a highly specific patient population and provide a basic overview of possible underlying pathophysiology; 2) the authors describe a modified operative technique that appears to have comparable outcomes compared to similar techniques reported in the literature (i.e. closure with the buccal fat pad). The authors suggest that the major advantage of their technique is that it saves the pedicle buccal fat pad if needed for a later operation. I recommend the article for publication with minor revisions.

1. Introduction, 3rd Paragraph, 2nd sentence starting “Whilst the American Association…”

Please revise sentence structure for clarity.

2. Patients and Methods, 2nd and 3rd paragraph

Why two weeks of IV antibiotics? Is there any evidence that IV versus oral administration results in improved clinical outcomes in BRONJ patients? Did any/all patients receive oral antibiotics before or after their IV antibiotics? Were cultures obtained for these lesions?

3. Results

Can the authors comment on the size of the oro-antral fistulas of the study cohort? Are there any indications where a surgeon might opt for the pedicle buccal fat pad instead? Size of defect? Anterior versus posterior location of defect, etc.?

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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests’ below