Reviewer’s report

Title: Facial soft tissue response to maxillo-mandibular advancement in obstructive sleep apnea syndrome

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Reviewer: Helmut Hösl

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In their retrospective cephalometric longitudinal study the authors investigate possible soft tissue changes after Maxillo-Mandibular Advancement (MMA) surgery in patients with obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome. They found changes to more aesthetic parameters, particularly within the mandible.

The hypothesis investigated by the authors is interesting, since available studies mostly focus on cephalometric parameters and not the facial profile itself, which is important for general aesthetics and patient satisfaction concerning the treatment outcome. In addition, only the MMA treatment has been evaluated before, whereas the OSAS condition has not received sufficient attention in this regard. The results obtained are important, since a positive effect of MMA treatment could be shown, which gives evidence-based data on the usefulness of the MMA treatment in OSAS patients.

The methodology used is adequate and corresponds to current standard in cephalometric studies. Inclusion and exclusion criteria are well chosen and statistical analysis is valid.

Some minor shortcomings, however, should still receive attention before publication:

1.) The hypothesis at the end of the introduction should be more clearly formulated. In its present form, only the aim of the study is stated ("to improve treatment planning and predictability of aesthetic outcomes"), but not what was actually tested (soft tissue parameters). The authors should transfer their hypothesis from the methods section to the introduction.

2.) Some minor typos: "The study sample comprised …" (First Line Methods section); "Table" and "Figure" should begin with an uppercase letter throughout the manuscript. "Photograph" instead of "photography" within Figure Captions;

3.) The corresponding unit of measurement should be directly given within the top line of each column alongside the parameter measured (e.g. "Mean [mm]"
4.) The names of the soft tissue points are given in Spanish in Table 1 and should be corrected to the English equivalents.

5.) Within Table 2, the p-values stated as ,000 should be transformed to <0.001 and a zero added to each p-value before the decimal.

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An article of importance in its field

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