Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of dexamethasone on postoperative swelling and neurosensory disturbances after orthognathic surgery: A randomized controlled clinical trial.

Version: 0 Date: 16 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Anthony Markus

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for submitting this well written paper on the use of dexamethasone for reduction of facial swelling following mandibular and maxillary surgery

I have the following comments:

Abstract

line 7 replace the word psychic(= wizardry or magic) with psychological

Introduction

Page 4 line 21 what do you mean by 'technical difficulties'

Page 5 line 40 why do you use cooling? what is a 'standardised, cooling protocol,'? how long do you keep patients in hospital? I would consider this a confounding issue. Why not give dexamethasone without cooling? How can you measure the reduction in swelling related only to the use of dexamethasone? These questions need to be addressed

Methodology and results - all ok, especially if you can justify my questions above

Page 9 line 1 I am confused by your term 'regeneration' Waa there something to that needed regeneration? Did the nerve degenerate? Are you saying that all the patients had some neurosensory deficit as a result of the surgery? Please explain. I am not aware of any evidence for the use of steroids as an aid to sensoro-neural recovery

Page 9 line 44 'A preoperative scan would lead to wrong results, as the surgery changes the patient's facial profile' - but surely this would be an accurate reference/starting point, and the one to compare with day 90

Page 10 line 7 glucocorticoids are almost universally used in orthognathic surgery. Justify this statement. And nobody would consider long term use in this situation. These lines need modification, and the rest of the paragraph is really not relevant to the discussion
you return to the point about cooling. Massive swelling? You might cause it, I don't! Something to do with technique. I think you need to re-phrase these lines

Page 12 line 7 what is 'Semmes esthesiometer'?

Page 12 line 44 - you need a space between 'neuroregeneration' and 'Furthermore'

I have, as may appreciate many concerns about this paper. As it is, I would not recommend publication but if you were to deal with the queries satisfactorily, then may be it could be. I hope you can!

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