Reviewer’s report

Title: Facial soft tissue changes after nonsurgical rapid maxillary expansion: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Valentin Javier Garcia

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Author
This is an interesting and original study where the authors have to objective to review results of studies that have evaluated changes of soft tissue after non surgical rapid maxillary expansion and to provide references to orthodontists. Nevertheless, the paper has a certain number of weaknesses, which is why I have to submit a Major-Review:

Abstract, The abstract is correct.

Background, It is correct.

Methods, Search strategy

Information Sources: you should write a period of search, for example, you can write MEDLINE®(1980-2016), ... Page 7, line 19: I think appendix 1 should be a table titled Table X. Search Strategy with Different Databases. These databases may provide little information but it demonstrates to the lector an enormous effort to search and studied all possible studies ... MEDLINE PubMed, Scopus - V.4 (Elsevier), SciVerse, Web of Science (Thomson Scientific/ISI Web Services), ProQuest Health & Medical Complete (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts) (ProQuest XML), Biblioteca Cochrane Plus, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL) (EBSCO), Cochrane Library. You should include.... Palate.mp. [mp = title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]. This is an example: table1 in article: Carvalho-Lobato P, García VJ, Kasem K, Ustrell-Torrent JM, Tallon-Walton V, Manzanares-Céspedes MC. Tooth Movement in Orthodontic Treatment with Low-Level Laser Therapy: A Systematic Review of Human and Animal Studies. Photomedicine and Laser Surgery 2014;32: 302-309 DOI: 10.1089/pho.2012.3439

Inclusion criteria
A section that assesses the age of the disjunction (precocious, adolescents or young adults) should be included. Discuss it in discussion.

Results, It is correct.

Discussion, The discussion is generally well written. Page 11, line 3-15. It should be noted that the average age is very similar in the selected studies. But recently there is a current trend to expansion in patients without growth. Comment on the need to evaluate soft tissue changes in adults in future studies.

Conclusion, The authors make clear this area and they describe well the problem. The aim of the study is to give references to orthodontists about how RME can affect facial aesthetics. Nevertheless, the conclusions are based on 10 articles that give results in the short term and in a very similar age range. Nowadays, patients with rapid expansion from 3 years to adults over 20 years old are treated. It should be noted in the article (including the abstract) that its conclusions are based on that age group and the short term. The results presented below cannot be extrapolated to the general population. Perfect and the conclusions seem to me to be a very appropriate. You should include if the authors have conflict of interest.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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