Reviewer's report

Title: Anti-nuclear Antibody and Rheumatoid Factor Positivity in Temporomandibular Disorders

Version: 0 Date: 14 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Muhammad Abdul Mabood Khalil

Reviewer's report:

I went through the paper. Authors correlated anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) and rheumatoid factor (RF) positivity with pain-related and hematological indices in temporomandibular disorders (TMD). Out of 257 only 39 (15%) patients had anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) and rheumatoid factor (RF) detected. Male patients had greater severity of symptoms and sign and a positive correlation was also found with inflammatory markers.

Although the number of the patients detected was just only 39, but the findings in this study are novel. There is only one study relevant to the subject done by Halpen and his colleagues. I think, this will give future direction for further research with a bigger sample size and longer follow up. I will suggest a little modification of one statement made by the authors. The author mentioned autoimmune hemolytic anemia. Did they really look for hemolysis to say that? It can be anemia of chronic disorder. I think this need clarification. Or one can just say anemia without referring to its etiology if work up for hemolysis was not done. Furthermore the authors explained the exclusion criteria well, but it will be nice to mention that there was no clinical history of other joint involvement to give message that study cohort did not had first presentation of rheumatoid arthritis or other connective tissue disorder. As a whole it is a good study and can go for publication.

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:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have no competing interest to declare

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.