Reviewer’s report

Title: Three-dimensional quantitative assessment of palatal bone height for insertion of orthodontic implants - a retrospective CBCT study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Michele Cassetta

Reviewer’s report:

I have carefully read the manuscript.

The topics covered are interesting. I made the following observations:

Introduction, page 5, line 13-16 "of mechanically retained OI of 13.5%": please delete mechanically retained because the mini-screws can be osseointegrated.

They unscrew because they do not have a macroscopic retentive design.

The Authors must point out that at the time of the maxillary canine eruption it is risky to place palatal mini-screws in the palatal zone. In these cases, computer-guided insertion is useful. Please cite: Cassetta M, Altieri F, Di Giorgio R, Barbato E. Palatal orthodontic miniscrew insertion using a CAD-CAM surgical guide: description of a technique. Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg. 2018 Sep;47(9):1195-1198.

Material and methods

"Patient data were anonymised by numerical designation of the subjects (A1-A33, B1-B42, C1-C51 and D1-D54) and only the date of birth and thus age and gender of the participants were disclosed to the investigator performing the measurements (R.V.) and the statistician (C.K.), both blinded to study group designations". The researchers knew both age and sex, the two variables studied. The study is not blinded. Please change the sentence.

The results of the intrarater reliability must be reported in the materials and methods, that is when the statistical analysis is described.

Discussion: "This information is particularly relevant, since growth in male and female patients occurs at different times and in different acceleration phases": Please delete this sentence because the study does not evaluate only growing patients.

The differences found by the Authors are also present in other areas of the maxilla often used for the insertion of mini-implants. Please cite and discuss the following research: 38.

The references present many errors and must be corrected very carefully.

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

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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