Reviewer’s report

Title: Template-based temporomandibular joint puncturing and access in minimally invasive TMJ surgery (MITMJS) – a technical note and first clinical results

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Andreas Kolk

Reviewer's report:

First of all I would like to thank for the opportunity to review the manuscript " Template-based temporomandibular joint access in minimally invasive TMJ surgery (MITMJS) - a technical note and first clinical results "

The topic of the manuscript is of sufficient interest as minimal invasive surgery of the TMJ will be the future of surgical treatment of TMD related to morphologic alterations of the TMJ.

Originality

The technical note is sufficiently novel, important and also interesting. A sufficient present literature search in this field showed no other current study with the same scope.

Structure

All in all, the article is clearly laid out. All key elements are present. The title exactly describes the content of the article.

Introduction

The introduction describes accurately, what the authors tried to achieve. The introduction is relatively long, but the topic is complex and the information given in the introduction summarizes the relevant clinical experience up to now rather well.

Results

This section is short but fitting the requirement of a technical note. The describes results support the claims of the discussion part rather good.

In the discussion I miss one fact that should be added: the use of CBCT/CT with radiation closed to the orbit in relatively young patients (on the image is a young patient). This is always a little
bit critical as MRI is the imaging modality of choice in TMJ-problems. The authors should discuss if this template related procedure can also be applied based on MRI?

Further in the result- and discussion section I saw some language problems that should be reviewed by a native speaker prior to publication.

Tables

The imaging material and graphs illustrate the required information from the text. The imaging quality of the displayed example could be better.

References

The reference list is up to date and covers a long time frame.

The reviewer suggests that the paper should be accepted in the overworked version after minor revision.

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

An article of importance in its field

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