Reviewers report

Title: Biomechanical analyses of common suspension sutures in primary cleft lip rhinoplasty

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Reviewer: Mahendra Parvatha Reddy

Reviewers report:

The authors of the article conducted a good study to predict the relapse following cleft rhinoplasty at the time of primary cleft lip closure. As mentioned by authors from line 227 to 237, this finite element study has many disadvantages typically associated with any finite element study thus making it very mildly relevant to clinical predictability of the outcome and relapse on a long term. It is advised that the authors mention the technique followed and simulated in FEM for repair of unilateral cleft lip. Also the factor which influences the tension forces on skin is the extent and the technique of sub-cutaneous dissection and periosteal scoring which the authors have not mentioned. This study only serves the purpose in simulated assessment of possible surface stress and possible relapse as a result of it with minimum clinical significance. It is advised that the authors use these suspension techniques in real patients in systematic randomized study and compare the results with this FEM study on a long term follow up.

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