Author’s response to reviews

Title: Advocacy of diagnostic criteria for maxillary incisive canal cysts based on alteration of normal maxillary incisive canals according to aging in Japanese populations

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Professor Stamm:

This letter is in response to your correspondence of August 12, 2019, concerning our manuscript (HAFM-D-19-00056). We were pleased to have received the comments of the reviewers and are now submitting a revised version entitled “Advocacy of diagnostic criteria for maxillary incisive canal cysts based on alteration of normal maxillary incisive canals according to aging in Japanese populations”. Our responses to the issues raised by the reviewers are itemized below.

We would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments and suggestions. We hope that you will now find the manuscript acceptable for publication in Head and Face Medicine, and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Yasuhiro Morimoto
Reviewer 1:

1. We replaced "etc." with “so on” in line 29 of the Introduction.

2. We replaced the term "CT numbers” with “Hounsfield scale” in the text. We also explained the term “Hounsfield scale” in the Materials and methods.

3. We added the inclusion criteria of the sample in the Material and methods.

4. We explained the others of Figure 1H in our revised version.

5. The details of the methods of the sagittal view of CT were added in the Materials and methods. At the same time, we added the anatomical points on CT images used in the present study.

6. We revised the text in the Discussion including the comparison between results from the present and other previous reports.

Reviewer 2:

1. We revised the description of the background of the study in the Abstract.

2. We shortened the Introduction by shortening some sentences and transferring some aspects to the Discussion.

3. We added the inclusion criteria of the normal subjects in Materials and methods.

4. We added more information on the CT scan protocol in Materials and methods.

5. We revised the descriptions of the analysis of angulation and curvature of maxillary incisive canals in Materials and methods.

6. We explained the marked difference of the mean attenuation of incisive canal cysts in patients in their 30s or 40s compared to other age groups and controls based on the statistical analysis.

7. We added the relationships of distributions of shapes and angulations on CT in incisive canal cysts with sex and age and the comparison of distributions of shapes and angulations between normal maxillary incisive canals and cysts in the Abstract, Results, and Discussion.

8. We revised and shortened the Discussion by deleting some redundant information or statements. In addition, we added the uneven distribution of patients and normals in the limitations of the Discussion. At the same time, we added that half of normal individuals were below age 40, whereas only 30% of the patients fell into this group in the limitations of the Discussion.
9. We added some references on imaging of maxillary incisive canal cysts.

10. We omitted Tables 6 and 8.

Reviewer 3:

1. We added that one limitation was the uneven distribution of patients and normals in the limitations of the Discussion. At the same time, we added that half of normal individuals were below age 40, whereas only 30% of the patients fell into this group in the limitations of the Discussion. Moreover, we added the limitation that only 1 patient was in some age groups in the Discussion. However, the present data were derived from all patients with maxillary incisive canal cysts.