Reviewer’s report

Title: Ontogeny of the facial phenotypic variability in Mexican patients with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome

Version: 0 Date: 06 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Moritz Blanck-Lubarsch

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

thank you for this interesting paper which is of interest for the diagnostic process of the 22q11.2 deletion syndrome.

language: well written

Introduction:

- Please describe the gold standard in diagnosis (genetic testing); you could use Swillen et al. 2015, Developmental trajectories in 22q11.2 deletion and/or Orpha.net as reference.
- What is the genetic inheritance pattern if a patient is affected?
- It might be advisable to mention that a high percentage is caused by de novo mutation.

Patients and methods:

- Did you screen the patients for palatal abnormalities especially for cleft lip palate?
- Did you exclude cleft lip palate patients? If not, you should mention this in the discussion because facial aberrations could result from this condition.
- You mentioned the usage of your findings for clinical training. It might therefore be helpful to insert a table with a list of significant aberrant features for each age stage.

Results:

- Please clarify the section describing significant and non-significant results (especially lines 38 to 51). For example, what is meant by group status? Is this patient group vs. Control? Please highlight and emphasize your significant results.

Discussion:

- What was your decision for the separation of the age groups based on - you could mention growth studies or percentile curves for explanation
Why did you use the fluorescent in situ hybridization instead of MLPA, aCGH or SNP microarray methods? Only monetary reasons or accuracy of the method?

Conclusion:

You should highlight that significant differences could be found.

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:

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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?

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