Reviewer’s report

Title: Perfect combination of the expanded flap and 3D printing technology in reconstructing a child's craniofacial region

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Reviewer: Jürgen Hoffmann

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript describes a surgically highly demanding case of a 15 year old child with sequelae of burned skin of the head and neck region.

A stepwise approach using skin expansion and pedicled flaps in combination with a patient specific implant is described. This procedure could be transferred to similar cases, whereas the methods used are well known.

Nevertheless the distinct reader of the journal might expand their surgical portfolio referring to his concept.

However the authors should be aware of the fact that we shouldn't talk about a reconstruction of defects, but of a reconstruction of the missing structures (e.g. facial skin).

This needs to be revised completely in the manuscript.

The same is true for "cosmetic" surgery, which might better be denamed as "aesthetic" surgery.

Besides that the manuscript needs a thorough linguistic revision.

Furthermore the authors need to answer the following questions within the next:

- what was the function of lips and lids after the reconstructions (esp. competency of closure),
- what was the function of the nose (esp. with breathing),
- what was the reason for placing the skin incision right above the titanium implant,
- what was the reason for using a patient specific implant (was there an option to close the circumscribed bony defects by a titanium mesh).

Level of interest

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