Reviewer’s report

Title: Morphometric characteristics of the thoracolumbar and lumbar vertebrae in the Greek population: a computed tomography-based study on nine hundred vertebrae. “Hellenic Spine Society (HSS) 2017 Award Winner”

Version: 1 Date: 25 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Arnold Wong

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for addressing most of questions and comments in detail. I have made some minor comments for the authors to address.

Abstract
1) In the conclusion section, the fourth line, it should be male and female populations

2) The last sentences can be written as, "However, in the thoracolumbar region, the pedicles of T9 and T10 may hardly accommodate a 4.00mm pedicle screw given the narrow inner cancellous pedicle width. Importantly, the vertebra and pedicle dimensions measured in the current study can be used to guide the selection of transpedicular screws in the Greek population and to guide further research".

3) Please state that Mann-Whitney U tests were conducted to compare the differences in various morphometric characteristics between sexes.

4) The second and third sentences in conclusion should belong to the results section.

5) Please highlight all the changes in a different color to facilitate the reviewers to see the changes.

Introduction
1) Please provide reasons for choosing T9 to L5 for measurements in the manuscript. Although you have provided your reason in the response to the reviewer, it is necessary to explain this to your readers because they don't have a chance to ask this question.

Materials and Methods
1) Please specify the qualification of the 2 persons in the manuscript (not just answer my question).

2) There are 3 types of ICC, Please clarify which type of ICC was used to test the inter-rater reliability

Results
1) What is the meaning of a negative angle for the angle of the endplate and the horizontal line in the sagittal plane?

2) Thank you for summarizing the findings succinctly. Please put the relevant figure number in the relevant location in the text. It will facilitate readers to find the corresponding figures. Please don't mix up tables and figures. They are two different things. Tables are in a tabulated format, while figures can be graphs and pictures. Since you use figures to represent trends, you should put those figures right after the relevant sentences. Please don't put the label of all figures at the second last paragraph. It is hard for readers to find the figures by themselves.

Discussion
1) Page 13, line 47, "Based on the analysis of the present study in Greek the population…". It should be "in the Greek population,…".

2) Please highlight that future studies should also establish the morphometric characteristics of the thoracic regions in the Greek population.

For Tables 1 to 8 should be label as Figures 6 to 13. The authors should also provide the title for the tables in the supplementary materials.

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

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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