

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59110

**Title: Biodegradable versus Titanium Osteosynthesis for Mandibular Fractures in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.**

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is ☐☐☐☐

Accept after minor revision ☒☐☐

Accept after major revision ☐☐☐☐

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ☐☐☐

| Rating         | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality    | √      |      |      |      |
| Techn. Quality |        | √    |      |      |
| Clarity        |        | √    |      |      |
| Significance   |        | √    |      |      |

Reviewer ID: JP085

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This article compares biodegradable and titanium plates for treating mandibular fractures in adults. Nine comparative studies were included. The review found no clear difference in infection, wound dehiscence, or non-union. Hardware failure was reported more often with biodegradable fixation. Operating time was about 15.6 minutes longer with biodegradable fixation.

### Strength:

1. The topic is clinically important.
2. The review follows PRISMA 2020.
3. Randomized and comparative studies were included.
4. Risk of bias and GRADE assessment were performed.
5. The authors clearly reported the limitations.
6. The authors separated mandibular fracture evidence from orthognathic surgery evidence.

### Weakness:

1. Only two studies could be pooled for several outcomes.
2. The sample size was small, so the confidence intervals are very wide.
3. Some studies had unclear or inconsistent patient/plate denominators.
4. Follow-up was short in several studies.
5. Blinding of outcome assessors was not clearly reported.
6. Hardware failure data were not consistently reported across studies.

### Overall assessment:

This is a relevant systematic review with useful clinical information. However, the small number of studies, small sample sizes, single-reviewer screening, incomplete database searching and risk of bias reduce the strength of the evidence.

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**Recommendation:** Manuscript accepted for publication after minor revision.