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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59706

Title: Patient-Reported Improvement in Facial Skin Appearance Following Submucosal Diathermy in Patients with Allergic Rhinitis - A Prospective Study,

Recommendation:
Accept as it is .....
Accept after minor revision.....
Accept after major revision .....x .....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		x		
Techn. Quality		x		
Clarity		x		
Significance			x	

Reviewer's ID: JPR-142

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript addresses an interesting clinical observation regarding patient-reported changes in facial appearance following submucosal diathermy in patients with allergic rhinitis. The topic has potential clinical relevance and offers an additional patient-centred perspective on functional nasal surgery. However, several methodological and scientific reporting aspects require clarification and improvement before the manuscript can be considered for publication.

Major Comments

1. **Study Methodology:** The authors should clearly specify the study setting, study duration, sample size, recruitment strategy, inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria to improve methodological transparency and reproducibility.
2. **Clinical Assessment:** The assessment procedures for Total Nasal Symptom Score (TNSS) and the seven-point allergic facies score require further clarification. Appropriate supporting references should be provided, and the validity or study-specific development of the scoring framework should be explained.
3. **Outcome Assessment:** Patient-reported facial appearance is an important outcome; however, the assessment methodology is insufficiently described. The authors should explain how changes in periorbital dark circles, facial puffiness and overall facial appearance were recorded and evaluated.
4. **Results Presentation:** The Results section lacks essential quantitative information. Please provide the total number of enrolled participants, baseline characteristics, follow-up completion,

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preoperative and postoperative TNSS, allergic facies scores, and the proportion of patients reporting improvement in facial appearance.

5. **Statistical Analysis:** A separate statistical analysis subsection should be included. Appropriate statistical tests should be specified for preoperative and postoperative comparisons and associations between nasal symptom improvement and facial appearance outcomes. Report relevant effect estimates, confidence intervals and p-values.
6. **Correlation Analysis:** The statement that facial improvement was more closely associated with improvement in nasal obstruction and sleep quality than with sneezing and rhinorrhea requires statistical evidence. Please provide supporting correlation or association analyses.
7. **Discussion:** The proposed mechanisms involving venous congestion, improved sleep and reduced nasal rubbing are interesting. However, these explanations should be presented cautiously as potential mechanisms rather than established causal pathways.
8. **Literature Support:** The Discussion requires stronger comparison with existing literature on allergic facies, inferior turbinate surgery and patient-reported outcomes. Relevant and recent references should be incorporated.
9. **Ethical Considerations:** Please provide the Institutional Ethics Committee name, approval number and approval date. Clarify the informed consent procedure and confirm that specific consent for publication of identifiable facial photographs was obtained, if applicable.

Minor Comments

1. Improve grammatical accuracy and scientific language throughout the manuscript.
2. Define all abbreviations at their first occurrence.
3. Ensure consistency in terminology, particularly submucosal diathermy, inferior turbinate hypertrophy and allergic facies.
4. Provide appropriate citations for all scoring systems and clinical assessment criteria.
5. Complete and verify the bibliographic information of reference number 6.
6. Ensure that all references are cited appropriately within the main text.
7. Improve the presentation and formatting of tables for better readability.
8. Avoid using the term statistically significant unless supported by appropriate statistical analysis.
9. Revise the conclusion to distinguish patient-perceived facial improvement from objectively demonstrated changes in facial pigmentation or skin appearance.

Overall Evaluation

The manuscript presents a potentially valuable clinical observation and addresses an underexplored aspect of functional nasal surgery. Nevertheless, the current version requires substantial improvement in

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methodological reporting, quantitative presentation of findings, statistical analysis and interpretation of outcomes. Addressing these concerns would improve the scientific validity, reproducibility and overall quality of the manuscript.