

# Review of: "Cleft Lip and Palate Repairs in X, "Sourire de l'Espoir" Humanitarian Missions' Experience: A Retrospective Study of 201 Consecutive Cases"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear author,

First of all, I congratulate the entire team for their dedication, as the procedures performed not only contribute to science but also benefit humanity. Thank you for your valuable submission. I have a few suggestions about your research that will -I think- be beneficial to ensure integrity.

Generally

- 1) The abstract is short and not sufficiently descriptive.
- 2) In the introduction, it is necessary to mention the surgical techniques performed in the study, which may be more explanatory for maxillofacial surgeons.
- 3) The Tennison-Borde-Bedouelle-Malek technique, Onizuka technique (modified Millard technique), The Kriens and Sommerlad palatoplasty technique -Explaining these techniques will improve the clarity of the article.
- 4) In the materials and methods section, the fact that the study was completed 10 years ago but has not yet been published can be considered as a negative feature considering the developing techniques and equipment.
- 5) Statistical analysis in the statistics section needs to be more descriptive.
- 6) The tables need to be organized.

In addition to

Abstract

Keywords: Cleft lip and palate, Humanitarian missions, Zwisch method, Togo- there's no need to have "Togo" in the keywords here.

Materials and Method

"Patients with unfavorable economic conditions were those without medical insurance and with income lower than the

minimum wage in Togo, given that no social security-supported hospital treatment was available during that specific period.”- in other parts of the article the country name is hidden, but here the country name is mentioned

“The training of local surgeons followed the Zwisch method”- this sentence can be more clear.

Preoperative investigations included a Complete Blood Count and ABO blood group analysis. it would be better if you explain why you are doing the ABO blood group analysis

#### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

You can talk about the Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria in a more enlightening way.

#### Results

Among these 11 patients, 9 patients were previously operated on in other missions. The grammar of this sentence could be better

According to the Zwisch model, the first 2 missions were “show and tell”; 60/201 patients were operated on by the mission leader. The third and fourth missions were the “smart help” step, with 48/201 patients treated. The fifth and the sixth missions were the phases of “dumb help”. Explaining these will improve the clarity of the article.

Results do not provide sufficient information about the obtained findings.

#### Discussion

The duration of the training given to local surgeons and the training can be explained in more detail.

#### Conclusions

You can talk about the number of patients with cleft lip and palate treated in the results.

Three Togolese surgeons acquired technical skills about Tennison-Borde-Bedouelle-Malek and the Kriens-Sommerlad veloplasty. In other parts of the article the name of the country is hidden, but in this part it is clear which country it is.

#### References

It would be better to use more up-to-date references with references after 2015

Best Regards

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