

Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of total laryngectomy on olfactory function, health-related quality of life, and communication: a 3-year follow-up study

Version: 2 **Date:** 8 June 2009

Reviewer: John W Werning

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this manuscript provides the readership with valuable new information pertaining to olfactory function and quality of life following laryngectomy. The research has been properly conducted and the manuscript is generally well-written. Specific comments:

Abstract: The phrase 'no mental distress' in the conclusion section is not substantiated in the results section.

Methods:

Olfaction Rehabilitation

1. The word "underpressure" should be changed to "negative pressure".
2. Also, the presumed mechanism of olfaction with NAIM (eg., retronasal olfaction) and the physiologic basis of this mechanism should also be discussed.

Examination and Questionnaires

1. Headings should not be acronyms such as SOIT, but should include the entire name with the acronym in parentheses.
2. Have these exam and questionnaire instruments been validated for use in the assessment of patients with olfactory function after laryngectomy?

Conclusions

"Additional questionnaires"- should be revised to "the use of additional validated survey instruments"

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.