Reviewer's report

Title: Presence of sublingual varices is connected to hypertension

Version: 2
Date: 26 February 2015
Reviewer: Jerónimo Lazos

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Major Compulsory Revisions

- The title is, by all means, an overstating. The data supplied in this paper is in no way enough to make that kind of statement; independent, multicenter, double-blinded, massive and biological mechanisms studies should be carried out before considering making such a strong assertion. Nowadays, there is none of that. Therefore, the title must be changed.

Methods:

- The exclusion criteria should state clearly if other conditions previously described in relation to sublingual varices were duly noted (such as cardiovascular disease and portal hypertension and particularly lower limb varices), because they are potential confounders. For the same reasons, this also should be considered when analyzing the data.

- Did the authors take pictures of both sides of the lateral borders of the tongue? Did they found varices elsewhere within the mouth? As mentioned in the study of Lazos et al. (Gerodontology 2013, doi: 10.1111/ger.12074), in order to avoid bias a proper examination should be done, including symmetry of lesions. So, both tongue sides should be examined, and this must be properly stated.

Results

- As mentioned before, there is no mention of how the potential confounder effect of previously related conditions (e.g. cardiovascular diseases and lower limb varices) has been managed; they are only mentioned when the authors describe the sample.

Discussion

- Again, to describe the correlation between sublingual varices and hypertension/smoking as “strong” is a little too much.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

I belong to a group that is currently researching about oral varices, and we have a published review on this particular topic, Lazos et al. (Gerodontology 2013, doi: 10.1111/ger.12074).