

Dear Dr. Kim,

We are pleased to inform you that, after preview by the Editorial Office and peer review, we believe that the academic quality, language quality, and ethics of your manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 88666, Case Report) basically meet the publishing requirements of the World Journal of Clinical Cases. As such, we have made the preliminary decision that it is acceptable for publication after your appropriate revision.

Upon our receipt of your revised manuscript, we will send it for re-review. We will then make a final decision on whether to accept the manuscript or not, based upon the reviewers' comments, the quality of the revised manuscript, and the relevant documents.

Please follow the steps outlined below to revise your manuscript to meet the requirements for final acceptance and publication.

1 MANUSCRIPT REVISION DEADLINE

We request that you submit your revision in no more than 14 days. Please note that you have only two chances for revising the manuscript.

2 PLEASE SELECT TO REVISE THIS MANUSCRIPT OR NOT

Please login to the F6Publishing system at <https://www.f6publishing.com> by entering your registered E-mail and password. After clicking on the "Author Login" button, please click on "Manuscripts Needing Revision" under the "Revisions" heading to find your manuscript that needs revision. Clicking on the "Handle" button allows you to choose to revise this manuscript or not. If you choose not to revise your manuscript, please click on the "Decline" button, and the manuscript will be WITHDRAWN.

3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

Please resolve all issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and make a point-by-point response to each of the issues raised in the peer review report, and highlighted the revised/added contents with yellow color in the revised manuscript. Note, authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s); these are listed below for your convenience:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific comments to authors

Dear Authors, I have thoroughly reviewed your manuscript titled "Keystone Flap Technique for Defect Coverage in Cervical Necrotizing Fasciitis: A Case Series." Your exploration of utilizing the keystone flap for defect coverage in cervical necrotizing fasciitis (CNF) is both clinically relevant and commendable. The detailed presentation of two cases, each with distinct anatomical locations of CNF, provides a comprehensive understanding of the application of the keystone flap in different clinical scenarios. I also want to commend you on the exceptional quality and relevance of the photos and figures you included as a part of the case presentations.

Response: We would like to thank Reviewer #1 for dedicating time and effort to review our manuscript and for providing a positive evaluation.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

Interesting and well written article.

Response: We would like to thank Reviewer #2 for dedicating time and effort to review our manuscript and for providing a positive evaluation.

4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Once this step is completed, the manuscript will be quickly accepted and published online. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

Response: Our manuscript has undergone English language editing at a professional English language editing company, Editage. We have provided an English language certificate as a separate file.

5 ABBREVIATIONS

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.

The basic rules on abbreviations are provided here:

(1) Title: Abbreviations are not permitted. Please spell out any abbreviation in the title.

(2) Running title: Abbreviations are permitted. Also, please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words.

(3) Abstract: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori).

(4) Key Words: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key Words.

(5) Core Tip: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

(6) Main Text: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

(7) Article Highlights: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

(8) Figures: Abbreviations are not allowed in the Figure title. For the Figure Legend text, abbreviations are allowed but must be defined upon first appearance in the text. Example 1: A: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) biopsy sample; B: HCC-adjacent tissue sample. For any abbreviation that appears in the Figure itself but is not included in the Figure Legend textual description, it will be defined (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend. Example 2: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

(9) Tables: Abbreviations are not allowed in the Table title. For the Table itself, please verify all abbreviations used in tables are defined (separated by semicolons) directly underneath the table. Example 1: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor:

1 Conflict of interest statement: Academic Editor has no conflict of interest.

2 Manuscript's theme: The topic is within the scope of the journal.

3 Scientific quality: The author submitted two case reports on the repair of neck necrotizing fasciitis defects using an improved trapezoidal skin flap. The manuscript is overall qualified.

(1) Advantages and disadvantages: The reviewers have given positive peer-review reports for the manuscript. Classification: Grade B; Language Quality: Grade A. The author's exploration of using a trapezoidal flap to cover the defect of cervical necrotizing fasciitis (CNF) is clinically relevant and commendable. The detailed presentation of two cases, each with distinct anatomical locations of CNF, provides a comprehensive understanding of the application of the keystone flap in different clinical scenarios. The author on the exceptional quality and relevance of the photos and figures you included as a part of the case presentations.

(2) Main manuscript content: The author clearly stated the purpose of the study and the research structure is complete. However, the manuscript still require a further revision according to the detailed comments listed below.

(3) Table(s) and figure(s): There are 6 Figures and no Table should be improved. Detailed suggestions for each are listed in the specific comments section.

(4) References: A total of 16 references are cited, including 7 published in the last 3 years. The reviewer didn't request the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself.

4 Language evaluation: The English-language grammatical presentation needs to be improved to a certain extent. There are many errors in grammar and format, throughout the entire manuscript. Before final acceptance, the authors must provide the English Language Certificate issued by a professional English language editing company. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend:

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

Response: We would like to thank Science editor for dedicating time and effort to review our manuscript and for providing helpful comments.

We have received English language editing services for our manuscript from a professional English language editing company, Editage, to ensure that there are no grammatical or syntax errors. As per your request, we have provided an English language certificate as a separate file. Furthermore, we have thoroughly and carefully checked the manuscript for compliance with journal formatting guidelines.

5 Specific comments:

(1) Please provide the Figures cited in the original manuscript in the form of PPT. All text can be edited, including A,B, arrows, etc. With respect to the reference to the Figure, please verify if it is an original image created for the manuscript, if not, please provide the source of the picture and the proof that the Figure has been authorized by the previous publisher or copyright owner to allow it to be redistributed. All legends require a general title and explanation for each figure. Such as A: ; B: ; C: .

Response: Thank you for the valuable comments. We have provided all the figures cited in the original manuscript in PPT format. We verify that all the figures, except Figure 5, are original images created for the manuscript. Figure 5 was reprinted from Kong *et al.* (Kong YT, Kim J, Shin HW, Kim KN. Keystone flaps for coverage of defects in the posterior neck and lower occipital scalp: a retrospective clinical study. *J Craniofac Surg* 2021; 32: 1813-1816 [PMID: 33654029 DOI: 10.1097/SCS.00000000000007581]), and was published with permission from Wolters Kluwer Health,

Inc. We verify that all legends have a general title and explanation for each figure.

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, and full text of the manuscript, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Clinical Cases, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

When revising the manuscript, it is recommended that the author supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply PubMed, or a new tool, the RCA, of which data source is PubMed. RCA is a unique artificial intelligence system for citation index evaluation of medical science and life science literature. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>, or visit PubMed at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Response: We would like to thank Company editor-in-chief for dedicating time and effort to review our manuscript and for providing helpful comments.

7 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING THE REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Step 1: Author Information

Please click and download the Format for authorship, institution, and corresponding author guidelines, and further check if the authors names and institutions meet the requirements of the journal.

Step 2: Manuscript Information

Please check if the manuscript information is correct.

Step 3: Abstract, Main Text, and Acknowledgements

(1) Guidelines for revising the content: Please download the guidelines for Original articles, Review articles, or Case Report articles for your specific manuscript type (Case Report) at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291>. Please further revise the content your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

(2) Format for Manuscript Revision: Please update the format of your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision and the Format for Manuscript Revision. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

(3) Requirements for Article Highlights: If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the "Article Highlights" section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the "Article Highlights" can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

(4) Common issues in revised manuscript. Please click and download the List of common issues in revised manuscripts by authors and comments (PDF), and revise the manuscript accordingly.

Step 4: References

Please revise the references according to the Format for References Guidelines, and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.

Step 5: Footnotes and Figure Legends

(1) Requirements for Figures: Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as "88666-Figures.pptx" on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of "Image File". Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s). Please click to download the sample document: [Download](#).

(2) Requirements for Tables: Please provide decomposable Tables (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as "88666-Tables.docx" on the system. The tables should be uploaded to the file destination of "Table File".

Reminder: Please click and download the Guidelines for preparation of bitmaps, vector graphics, and tables in revised manuscripts (PDF), and prepare the figures and tables of your manuscript accordingly.

Step 6: Automatically Generate Full-Text Files

Authors cannot replace and upload the "Manuscript File" separately. Since we only accept a manuscript file that is automatically generated, please download the "Full Text File" or click "Preview" to ensure all the contents of the manuscript automatically generated by the system are correct and meet the requirements of the journal. If you find that there is content that needs to be modified in the Full-Text File, please return to the corresponding step(s), modify and update

the content, and save. At this point, you then have to click the "Save & Continue" button in Step 5 and the F6Publishing system will automatically regenerate the Full-Text File, and it will be automatically stored.

Step 7: Upload the Revision Files

For all required accompanying documents (listed below), you can begin the uploading process via the F6Publishing system. Then, please download all the uploaded documents to ensure all of them are correct.

- (1) 88666-Answering Reviewers
- (2) 88666-Audio Core Tip
- (3) 88666-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form
- (4) 88666-Copyright License Agreement
- (5) 88666-Approved Grant Application Form(s) or Funding Agency Copy of any Approval Document(s)
- (6) 88666-Signed Consent for Treatment Form(s) or Document(s)
- (7) 88666-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate
- (8) 88666-Video
- (9) 88666-Image File
- (10) 88666-Table File
- (11) 88666-CARE Checklist–2016
- (12) 88666-Supplementary Material

For all manuscripts involving human studies and/or animal experiments, author(s) must submit the related formal ethics documents that were reviewed and approved by their local ethical review committee. This is mandatory and is one of the determining factors for whether or not the manuscript will be finally accepted. If human and animal studies received waiver of the approval requirement from the ethics committee, the author(s) must provide an official statement to this

effect made by the ethics committee. The guidelines for manuscript type and related ethics and relevant documents/statements can be found at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287>.

If your manuscript has supportive foundations, the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s) must be provided. Otherwise, we will delete the supportive foundations.

If your manuscript has no "Video" or "Supplementary Material", you do not need to submit those two types of documents.

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9 CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Please click and download the fillable ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest (PDF), and fill it in. The Corresponding Author is responsible for filling out this form. Once filled out completely, the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form should be uploaded to the file destination of 'Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form'.

Best regards,

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