

Dr. Jin-Lei Wang,  
Company Editor-in-Chief  
***World Journal of Clinical Cases***

RE: Manuscript NO.: 76155, Case Report

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We are resubmitting our manuscript entitled *Efficacy of True Lift®*, a *Nonsurgical Facial Ligament Retightening Injection Technique Assessed with a 3D Facial Imaging System: Report of Two Cases*, with the requested revisions by the reviewers and the Editorial office. We thank you and the reviewer for your time and for providing constructive comments which improved the quality of the manuscript.

Our point-by-point responses addressing the reviewers' and editorial comments are as follows. Formatting guidelines were also followed including the insertion of copyright information to the figure file. The revised text is annotated using the track change function in MS Word. The entire manuscript has been edited by a professional language editing service to improve the grammar and readability. Please refer to our point-to-point response to review comments and the revised manuscript.

We thank you for conditionally accepting our manuscript, and hope that the revised manuscript is now appropriate for publication in *World Journal of Clinical Cases*. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely Yours

Peter Huang

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## **Response to Reviewers' comments**

### **Reviewer #1:**

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

Dear authors: It was my pleasure to collaborate in the publishing process of your interesting manuscript; I found a well structured manuscript, with a logical order during the developing process of the topic. I just would like to recommend you to write a brief paragraph regarding the possible effect of the age of the patients in the observed results.

**Response to Reviewer #1:** Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We have added a brief paragraph in the discussion section as suggested. Because the True Lift technique is based on retightening of the true retaining ligaments, it is suitable for improving facial laxity in the early aging process, but not appropriate for mature patients in the later stages of the facial aging process, whose rejuvenation requires more than facial retightening, such as facial volume restoration or correction of bony support. The patients in this study were relatively young and likely in the early stages of aging, which may partly explain the observed improvements. This has been added to the discussion section.

### **Reviewer #2:**

Scientific Quality: Grade E (Do not publish)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Rejection

Specific Comments to Authors: In this manuscript, the authors reported two cases of facial improvement using hyaluronic acid to demonstrate the therapeutic efficacy of the method. However, there're several issues which should be addressed. 1. From the perspective of case report, both cases were common cases. 2. In order to prove that the method is effective, the sample size is too low to prove that the method is effective.

**Response to Reviewer #2:** Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. The purpose of this study was objectively quantified the aesthetic lifting effect of a non-surgical

facial re-tightening procedure we have published previously. Because this technique is suitable for improving facial laxity in the early aging process, two common cases were reported to demonstrate its effectiveness in common patients. Using these two common cases, we demonstrated quantifiable aesthetic improvements in the orbital, zygomatic and mandibular region in young patients requiring aesthetic improvement. We agree one of the limitation is the small sample size, future research with a larger sample size and perhaps inclusion of patients with different stages of facial ageing could provide a more in-depth evaluation and substantiate the validity of the aesthetic improvements observed in this study. These explanations were added to the limitation section in the revised manuscript.

**Reviewer #3:**

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

The facial retightening technique of placing high G' fillers to the base of the ligaments is based on the authors' previous work published in PMFA Journal. In this case report paper, the retightening effect is quantified by 3D facial imaging. Measurements obtained both prior to and after injection are characterized. Overall, this is a good paper. I recommend minor revisions before acceptance.

1. Case Presentation: point 1 in Figure 1 may indicate point 1 in Figure S1.
2. The authors claim that the measurement of the parameters is achieved by the 3D facial imaging system. Please describe the 3D facial imaging system in detail: For example, what components does it consist of? What is the principle of imaging?
3. The detailed procedure is described in Huang et al[4]. However, this statement does not seem intuitive. I recommend the author to draw a flowchart or schematic diagram to show the detailed procedure.

**Response to Reviewer #3:** Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to your suggestion. The point-to-point response is as follows:

1. The typo has been corrected.
2. Details of the 3D facial imaging system are added as suggested. Please refer to the subheading '3D Photogrammetric Analysis' and 'Outcome Definitions'.
3. A brief description of the procedure technique are added as suggested. Please refer to the revised subsection 'Intervention'

**Reviewer #4:**

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Here are two interesting cases suggested to accept.

**Response to Reviewer #4:** [Thank you for reviewing our manuscript.](#)

**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:**

The authors submitted a manuscript investigating the ability of a three-dimensional facial imaging system to quantify the aesthetic lifting effect of a non-surgical facial retightening procedure. Some reviewers have given positive peer-review reports for the manuscript. However, as the peer reviewer indicated, the authors should point out the limitations of their study. Importantly, the Methods and the Discussion section still require a further revision according to the detailed comments listed below.

(1) In the Case Presentation section, Intervention, the detailed procedure is described in Huang et al[4]. The authors should briefly describe the procedure.

(2) In the Case Presentation section, the main purpose of this study is to evaluate whether the aesthetic lifting effect of a non-surgical facial retightening procedure could be quantified via a three-dimensional facial imaging system. However, there are a little information about this three-dimensional facial imaging system. For instance, please describe how to use this three-dimensional facial imaging system to measure the parameters? What is the standard for taking pictures using this system?

(3) In the Discussion section, regarding new methodology used in this study, please point out the limitations of your study within the methodology.

(4) In the Conclusions section, the authors claim that "the application of non-surgical retightening procedure with high G' filler achieved satisfactory aesthetic outcome". I have to doubt that the sample size is too low to prove that the method is effective.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

### **Response to Science Editor:**

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and for providing insightful comments for improving the quality of our manuscript. We have revised the Methods and Discussion section according to your advice. The point-to-point response is as follows:

- (1) Brief description of the intervention procedure was added. Please refer to the revised subsection on 'Intervention'.
- (2) Information about the 3D facial imaging system was added. Please refer to the newly added subsection on '3D Photogrammetric analysis'.
- (3) Limitations are added to the discussion:
  - The success of this technique is the dependent strategic placement of high G' fillers to the base of the true retaining ligaments. The injection technique requires a high level of skill and a good knowledge of facial anatomy to achieve strategic placement of high G' fillers to the base of the true retaining ligaments.
  - Limitations of this study are the small sample size and age. The two patients in this study were relatively young and likely in the early stage of facial aging, which may partly explain the observed improvements. The aesthetic improvements observed in our study should be validated with a larger sample size and include patients at different stages of facial aging.
- (4) We have revised the concluding sentence as 'In conclusion, this report demonstrated the application of non-surgical retightening procedure with high G' filler achieved quantifiable aesthetic improvements in the orbital, zygomatic and mandibular region. The observed aesthetic improvements in our study should be validated with larger sample size and include patients at different stages of facial aging.

### **(2) Company editor-in-chief:**

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, 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. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. In order to respect and protect the author's intellectual property rights and prevent others from misappropriating figures without the author's authorization or abusing figures without indicating the source, we will indicate the

author's copyright for figures originally generated by the author, and if the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or indicate the reference source and copyrights. 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) 2022. Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must 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 a new tool, the RCA. RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. 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/>.

**Response to Company editor-in-chief:** Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and for conditionally accepting our manuscript. We have revised our manuscript according to the Peer-Review Report and Editorial Office's comments. The revised manuscript has been edited by a professional language editing service to improve the grammar and readability. Formatting guidelines for tables and figures were also followed including the addition of copyright information to the figure file. Please refer to our point-to-point response to review comments and the revised manuscript.