Review of Thesis Proposal

Reviewer Name: Kevin Ai Xin Jue Luo

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Peer Review Committee #: 9

Project Title: Needs Analysis and Time Flow Study to Assess Endoscopic Ear Surgery

Description of Project:

This project will focus on investigating the difficulties of implementing transcanal endoscopic ear surgery (TEES). This involves surveying surgeons who are experienced in this type of surgery, as well as conducting time flow analyses and determining areas where instrumentation can be improved for better efficacy in TEES. The results will show the reasons why TEES is not being widely used despite its advantages. It will also lead to areas of improvement surrounding the surgical work flow and the instruments being used.

1. Objective/research questions are clear. There are clearly two areas of approach to investigating the research questions. They present two complimentary dimensions to the project.
2. There are good, relevant papers cited in the bibliography about minimally invasive endoscopic ear surgery. However I feel the study rationale section should also provide some insight on the general process of TEES itself.
3. The rationale is very sufficient for the study, as the choice for the proposed methods are backed up well.
4. This research as potential to be innovative, depending of the quality of its discoveries. The idea of such a study is also innovative, as it seems like nothing of the sort has been done.
5. The methods are very appropriate for achieving this objective.
6. The expected outcomes are very logical and complete. It even discusses further implications such as usage outside of TEES. However it constrains further implications to surgery through natural orifices of the body, I don’t understand why it is so specific. A little bit of explanation might help.
7. The study is perfectly feasible. The researcher has access to surgeons and their work environment.
8. The organization of ideas is clear, and no new information is presented without sufficient explanation and relation to the research question and aim.
9. The document was very easy to read, as the methods involved were worded in a non-complicating manner.
10. This is solid proposal with objectives as well as methods concisely stated. However, a little more explanation of how TEES works would be appreciated.
11. Make sure there is enough explanation of TEES in the actual proposal. Also, feel free to elaborate on why the described future implications can be valid.