

## Peer Review File

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### Review comments

#### Reviewer A

Comment: Dear authors,

First, I would like express my appreciation on how this paper is written. It is easy to read and well-structured. The title and abstract catch the attention of a reader.

Please find some comments below.

1. The article is identified as a case report in the abstract. I suggest to identify the article as a case report in the title as well to avoid any confusion
2. In the introduction, the age of the patient is different than mentioned in the case presentation. I recommend to correct this and add the gender (male) to the description in the case presentation.
3. I agree with the authors that, especially in palliative cases, one must be mindful on how far to go in reconstruction to obtain aesthetically pleasing results. These decisions should be made with the patient, with an individual approach taking into account patient preferences and feasible technical options as well as life expectancy. To get a better visual picture of the case, I would like to suggest to include a preoperative image as well.

Although I personally would not label the appearance as cute, given the defect size I do agree this result was satisfactory in this palliative setting. The explanation given by the authors for the patient's perception of cuteness in his appearance sheds an interesting point of view. The elaboration is clear and intriguing. The conclusion is clear and relevant.

**We thank the reviewer for his feedback. However, this is not a case report. this is an editorial, that simply uses a case report as an example to make our point more understandable. We added a photograph of the patient before surgery. The age discrepancy has also been corrected.**

#### Reviewer B

Comment: This is an interesting work describing the importance of uncanny valley effect and Hello Kitty effect. The case is highly illustrative to understand what authors are proposing. I read it with interest and I fully agree in the conclusions that the authors

wrote.

**Reply: Many thanks to the reviewer for his positive feedback. We really appreciate it.**

### **Reviewer C**

Comment: The article presents a case report of salvage surgery in a patient with extensive squamous cell carcinoma of the lower face. The article is well written and discusses the difficult psychological aspect of accepting the patient's appearance after extensive ablative surgery. The authors presented in detail the problem of the Uncanny Valley effect. On the example of the patient after an extensive resection, obtaining a human-likeness appearance is unrealistic, which threatens very easy to fall into the valley. The article presents an example of reconstruction with two ALT flaps, thanks to which a "cute" appearance of the patient was obtained. This "cute" appearance was named by the Authors as the "Hello-Kitty" effect. The "Hello-Kitty" effect only somewhat resembles a human-like appearance, however it prevents from falling into the valley. Due to the similarity of the patient to the cartoon character, the appearance was accepted by the patient as well as the surrounding society. The case report comes from Asia, where "Manga" or other cartoon characters, like Hello Kitty are part of the culture of Asian society. I don't know whether European or American society would perceive the presented result of reconstruction as a "cute" appearance. Nevertheless, the article is very interesting. I would only recommend adding a photograph of the patient before the surgery, or his CT scans.

**Reply: We thank the reviewer for his feedback. We added a photograph of the patient before surgery.**

### **Reviewer D**

Comment: This is an excellent article described a difficult case from an uncommon perspective! I am really impressed from authors point of view and the final outcome that they provided to the patient! English and study design are of excellent quality! The only flaw of this article is the lack of adequate literature! I really consider the list of references limited! Authors should add more references and discuss them in the introduction or discussion section! For example, facial nerve restoration after an inevitable sacrifice is fundamental to provide a satisfactory outcome! This article " Poutoglidis A, Paraskevas GK, Lazaridis N, Georgalas C, Vlachtsis K, Markou K, Gougousis S, Fyrmipas G, Keramari S, Tsentemidou A, Vardaxi X, Garefis K, Poutoglidou F, Tsetsos N. Extratemporal facial nerve branching patterns: systematic review of 1497 cases. J Laryngol Otol. 2022 Dec;136(12):1170-1176. doi: 10.1017/S0022215121003571. " provide all the necessary information and can be used as a reference point! In addition, authors should discuss more extensive the role of adjuvant treatments in the overall outcome even for palliative purposes! I really support the publication of this study after minor revisions!

**Reply: Many thanks to the reviewer for his positive and enthusiastic feedback. However, we do not see how a systematic analysis on facial nerve patterns, associates to our study. We hope that it does not represent self-citation of the reviewer.**