Letter to the Editor concerning "Strap stabilization for proximal junctional kyphosis prevention in instrumented posterior spinal fusion" by Rodriguez-Fontan F, et al. (Eur Spine J; [2020]: 1287–1296, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00586-020-06,291-0>)

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Letter

I recently read with great interest the article titled “Strap Stabilization for Proximal Junctional Kyphosis Prevention in Instrumented Posterior Spinal Fusion” by Rodriguez-Fontan et al. [1]. The idea of using Mersilene tape band to prevent proximal junctional kyphosis is brilliant. But, the main diversity of Mersilene tape and sublaminar band is the control of the tape’s tightness. Although the same knot configuration was applied in their study, the subject that I wonder most is the tightness of the Mersilene tape knot. Viswanathan et al. demonstrated that sublaminar bands at two levels allow the most gradual force distribution [2]. The clamps of sublaminar bands allow to control the tightness of the bands. How did the authors adjust the tightness?

As expected, Mersilene tape decreased the risk of proximal junctional failure in adult deformity surgery. The authors had four revision surgeries in the case group. I searched for any data about the tightness of the Mersilene tape in these patients, but I did not find. Also, I wonder how long did the Mersilene tape maintain its tightness for all cases. Can proximal junctional measurements give information about the tightness of the tape? Did authors decide to measure

the length of the tape with ultrasound or something else? Did the tightness of the tape affect the protection of proximal junctional failure in revised cases? I will be glad if the authors share these data with us.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author declare that there is no conflict of interest.

References

1. Rodriguez-Fontan F, Reeves BJ, Noshchenko A et al (2020) Strap stabilization for proximal junctional kyphosis prevention in instrumented posterior spinal fusion. *Eur Spine J* 29(6):1287–1296
2. Viswanathan VK, Ganguly R, Minnema AJ et al (2018) Biomechanical assessment of proximal junctional semi-rigid fixation in long-segment thoracolumbar constructs. *J Neurosurg Spine* 30(2):184–192

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