Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identical fracture patterns in combat vehicle blast injuries due to improvised explosive devices; a case series. Identical injury patterns in blast trauma

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
The Editor, BMC musculoskeletal disorders,

Dear editor,

Hereby, we would like to present the re-revised manuscript of our report, entitled: ‘Identical fracture patterns in combat vehicle blast injuries due to improvised explosive devices; a case series’, for consideration of publication as an original report in the journal. We would like to thank the reviewers for the acceptance of the manuscript.

On the question concerning informed consent of the participants the following: During the acute phase treatment in Kandahar, radiographs and Ct-scans were ordered by Prof. dr. Breederveld, the treating physician of all cases and co-author of the manuscript. The soldiers were all asked for consent by him and all consented to the publishing of their anonimized case reports and accompanying X-ray studies. Obtaining written consent was not possible due to the rush and high turn-over at the operating room and in the hospital. Soldiers were transported to the US or Germany within two days. Professor Breederveld himself made sure that the radiographs were made anonymous, prior to the drafting of the case series. Therefore, it is at this point impossible to re-establish the soldiers identities and write the soldiers to ask for written consent.

In the manuscript, as requested, the proposed phrase was added, obviously with written consent being replaced by verbal informed consent. Hopefully, this explanation is sufficient to meet the ethics of BMC and to proceed publishing the article.

In anticipation of your response, on behalf of the co-authors,

With kind regards,

Joris Commandeur
Robert Jan Derksen
Damian MacDonald
Roelf Breederveld