Author's response to reviews

Title: Inter-tester reproducibility and inter-method agreement of Beighton tests and criteria for Generalised Joint Hypermobility in primary school children

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Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
To The Editor of BMC Pediatrics

Dear Editor,

I hereby submit the original manuscript Inter-tester reproducibility and inter-method agreement of Beighton tests and criteria for Generalised Joint Hypermobility in primary school children by Tina Junge, Eva Jespersen, Niels Wedderkopp and Birgit Juul-Kristensen for publication in BMC Pediatrics. I believe this paper is within the scope of your journal and will have interest for a specific group of researchers reading this journal, and I do hope you will find the manuscript acceptable for publication.

This manuscript focuses on the inter-tester reproducibility of tests and criteria for Generalised Joint Hypermobility of two different, but commonly used procedures of performing the Beighton tests, Methods A and B, and also the inter-method agreement for these two methods, among children aged 7-8 and 10-12 years.

The importance and relevance of the presented study is, that the Beighton tests are commonly used screening tests in clinical practice, when assessing joint hypermobility by visual observation. To our knowledge, however, a lack of standardisation as well as a shortage of reliability and validity exists for these tests, leaving uncertainty of prevalence and making inter-method comparisons of joint hypermobility in children difficult.

The main result of the study is, that the inter-tester reproducibility of the total score of Methods A and B was moderate to substantial, following a standardised study protocol. There was no difference in prevalence when applying the current two test batteries, meaning that either can be used in the same children population.

The manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere, and no portion of the data has been or will be published in proceedings or transactions of meetings or symposium volumes. The manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors; all having met the requirements for authorship, and each author believes that the manuscript represents honest work. The manuscript follows the guidelines by the European Medical Writers’ Association. The authors have no financial relationships relevant to this manuscript to disclose. No honorarium, grant, or other form of payment was given to anyone to produce the manuscript.
Point-by-point response to the concerns of the manuscript:

1. Copyediting:
The written English has now been revised and we hope the corrections have improved the quality of the manuscript.

2. Title page:
A title page has now been added at the front of our manuscript file.

3. Competing interests:
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

4. Authors' information:
The Authors’ Contributions section has now been placed after Competing interests.

5. Consent:
The Methods section has now been revised.

Yours sincerely

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