Author's response to reviews

Title: Hand-held dynamometry in patients with haematological malignancies: Measurement error in the clinical assessment of knee extension strength

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Author's response to reviews:

Scott Edmunds PhD
Senior Editor
BMC-series Journals

Zurich, 25/02/2009

RE: Manuscript 4466706622879540 [2]


Dear Dr. Edmunds,

Thank you for your e-mail dated February 12, 2009. We believe that we have addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers, and are thus pleased to submit a revised version of the manuscript to BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Enclosed you will find a point-by-point description of the minor changes in the manuscript based on the reviewers’ comments and suggestions. Further, a number of minor grammatical and stylistic changes have been made to improve the quality of the manuscript.

We very much appreciate consideration of our manuscript and hope that this new version is now acceptable for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Sincerely yours, also on behalf of the coauthors,
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Point-by-point description
RE: Manuscript BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders MS: 4466706622879540 [2]


Reviewer #1: Richard W Bohannon

Minor revisions
1a) `Realizing that abbreviations have conscientiously…and don’t use periods (ie, C.O.P.D.).`

We have replaced the acronym C.O.P.D. with COPD and edited the manuscript accordingly:
- `…and patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [16].` (Page 5, lines 19-20).
- `…with those observed in COPD patients [16],` (Page 16, line 6).
- `… found in patients with COPD [58].` (Page 17, line 5).
- `COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.` (Page 21, line 8).

1b) `designate FACT-AN the first time it is used…but on page 8 (after its first use).`

We have designated the acronym FACT-An the first time it was used on page 7 (lines 7-9): and edited the manuscript accordingly:
- `… on the Functional Assessment for Cancer Therapy-Anemia (FACT-An) scale [36,37],` (Page 7, lines 7-8).
- `…the FACT-An scale. (Page 8, line 4, 2x).
- and in Table 1: FACT-An (13 fatigue items)

2) `The authors present strength measures in Tables 1, ...I suggest they limit the values to the tenths place.`

The measures in the tables 1, 4A&B, and 5A&B have been corrected to the tenths place.

RE: Manuscript BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders MS: 4466706622879540 [2]


Reviewer #2: Christian Lariviere

Minor revision

`In the captions of figures 2, 3, 4 and 5...If so, please change the wording accordingly.`

The captions have been edited and now read:

Figure 2: Distribution from Bland and Altman; average of 3 MVPT values for intra-observer measurements (Page 31 lines 7-8).

Figure 3: Distribution from Bland and Altman; average of 3 MVPT values for inter-observer measurements (Page 31 lines 14-15).

Figure 4: Distribution from Bland and Altman; single MVPT values for intra-observer measurements (Page 31 lines 20-21).

Figure 5: Distribution from Bland and Altman; single MVPT values for inter-observer measurements (Page 32 lines 1-2).

`Quality of written English`

A number of minor grammatical and stylistic changes have been made to improve the quality of the manuscript and an extra version of the manuscript with track changes has been added.