Author's response to reviews

Title: Gray-scale ultrasound volar and dorsal additive scores follow the trend of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis

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Ultrasound in rheumatoid arthritis - volar versus dorsal synovitis evaluation and scoring

COVER LETTER

Note: all changes made are in green in the corrected text

Answers to reviewer 1:

Major comments

1. We added the settings of Power Doppler for our study in methods section.
2. We deleted the phrase that contains the word “replace” concerning volar and dorsal synovitis.
3. We eliminated “strong” regarding the degree of correlation between synovial scores and clinical parameters.

Minor comments: We explained ES and EPJ both in the text and near the tables and graphs.

Answers to reviewer 2:

Minor essential revisions:

1. We corrected the sentence as the reviewer suggested (all corrections in green in the submitted text)
2. Corrected- in green
3. Corrected examiner with examiner
4. Corrected whilst to while
5. Corrected ecografic to echographic
6. Corrected ‘correlation with”
7. Corrected first sentence of introduction
8. Corrected the word “incidence” with volar vs dorsal US examination
9. Corrected the phrase- in green
10. Corrected all commas to periods
11. Corrected – the column with 42 was deleted and the number was added to the table. We clarified the abbreviations both in the text and near the tables
12. Corrected the phrase regarding ESR and CRP.
13. Corrected sonographist to sonographer
14. Corrected the phrase regarding carpal bones
15. We could not find any specific reference, but almost all US studies before ours excluded them.
16. Corrected comma
17. Corrected spelling of differentiating and changed commas to periods
18. Corrected commas; explained ES in the text and scoreco near the table
19. Added a paragraph inside the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of Ultrasonography section for explaining ES, VES, EPJ
20. Erased graph 1- it was referring to right and left sides of joints, that is why the values did not match the text
21. We labeled x and y axes of graphs
22. Erased the paragraph and graphs adjacent to it
23. Corrected graph for easier identification of joints, changed graph’s number
24. Reexamined tables 3 and 4 as well as graphs by a statistician
25. A new title of the paper has been issued
26. Corrected the word “controle” to “control”
27. Corrected the word “his” to “their”
28. Deleted the whole sentence starting with “it is obviously…”
29. Corrected the word “mostly” to “best”
30. Corrected the phrase
31. Corrected “our differences were not as high” to “ in our study, the differences were not as high”
32. Corrected commas
33. Corrected comma
34. Did not understand the grammatical error
35. Changed figures orientation
36. Deleted last phrase before conclusions
37. Changed last paragraph- conclusions