Author’s response to reviews

Title: Polymethylmethacrylate-assisted Ventral Discectomy: Rate of Pseudarthrosis and Clinical Outcome with a Minimum Follow-up of 5 Years

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Manuscript submission “Polymethylmethacrylate-assisted Ventral Discectomy: Rate of Pseudarthrosis and Clinical Outcome with a Minimum Follow-up of 5 Years”

Dear members of the board,

thank you very much for the revision of the manuscript. We appreciate the efforts and constructive comments of the reviewers and hopefully have addressed all mentioned concerns adequately.

Reviewer #1:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors should provide the statistical tests that they used. This point is not precise in the manuscript.

2. Correction: “pseudarthrosis” (results): A pseudarthrosis was observed in 17 cases

Discretionary Revisions

1. What I cannot discern from the paper is whether this represents patients from a single surgeon.

Author’s reply:

1. We apologize the lack of this information and have added the following passage into the methods section of the manuscript.
“The statistical evaluation was performed using PASW Statistics 18, Version 18.0.0 (SPSS Inc.). Statistical analysis of ASD and gender was performed by Pearson's chi-square test. The clinical and radiological data were analysed by the Mann-Whitney-U-test and the Student's t-test. A p-value <0.05 was deemed as statistically significant.”

2. Thank you very much for the correction. We have changed the manuscript accordingly.

3. The patients were operated by two senior surgeons (WRL and KMH). This information has been added in the methods section:

“The surgical procedures were performed by two senior neurosurgeons.”

Reviewer #2:
“Needs some language corrections before being published.”

Author’s reply:
The manuscript has undergone an extensive revision by a native speaker. We hope the manuscript now meets acceptable language criteria. We would like to add an acknowledgement for Mrs. Leah Hecker for editing the manuscript.

Other Comments:
Figure 1 has been reprocessed according to your request.

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Thank You very much for considering the manuscript for publication. We hopefully provided satisfying answers and statements towards the comments and concerns of the reviewers.

With kind regards,

Mario Čabraja, MD