Author's response to reviews

Title: Associations between proinflammatory cytokines in the synovial fluid and radiographic grading and pain-related scores in 47 consecutive patients with osteoarthritis of the knee

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to the reviewers’ comments (ver. 2).

We thank the reviewers for the constructive comments. Our responses to the queries are given below.

Response to Referee 1:

Q1·1
The revised manuscript is much better from the scientific point of view. I am not happy with some of the stylistic changes made by the editing service, though. For instance, using the term "genetic expression" instead of "gene expression" tells me that they are not sufficiently familiar with real-life use of scientific terminology. Please go through the manuscript one last time to adjust the style so that it gets closer to the style that is generally used in medical writing.

A1·1
Thank you for your suggestion. We re-ordered the editing service to correct the manuscript including terminology. Please refer to the manuscript.

Response to Referee 3:

Q3·1
The authors have answered satisfactorily of the points raised by the reviewer.

A3·1
We really appreciate the reviewers to give us the opportunity to revise the manuscript.

Response to Referee 4:

Q4·1
I have just one small comment, in page 13 line 22, they wrote "OCL transaction". The authors should write what OCL stands for?

I wish to congratulate the authors for the improvements on the paper.

A4·1
“CCL” should be “ACL”, which is due to our mistype. However the word “ACL” does not appear on the manuscript in other part, so it should be “anterior cruciate ligament”. We modified the manuscript.

We thank you for your constructive comments.
List of revisions made in 2nd revision:

General Information:
The corrections in the 2nd revision were made on the 1st revision. The changes made by the editing service in the 1st revision were subtracted, so the modified parts in the manuscripts shows the changes by the 2nd editing service. We have showed only the changes we have made, and did not show the changes by the editing service. Please refer to the manuscript to confirm the changes made by the editing service.

Background
Page 5, line 13: We added “antagonism” to keep consistency of the sentence (We altered reference #10, which was confused with another article).

Discussion:
Page 12 line13: We replaced [Marks2005] with [30], which is the correct citation number.
Page 13 line12: We changed “CCL” with “anterior cruciate ligament” in response to Q4.1.

Discussion: