Author’s response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and Safety of Intra-articular Injections of Sodium Hyaluronate (Hyalgan) in the Treatment of Osteoarthritis of the Knee A Randomized, Controlled Trial in the Asian Population

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Assistant Judith Gorton,

Thank you very much for the e-mail of Feb. 28th. We are very glad to have the guidance and information in revising this manuscript. Your comments are both helpful and constructive to us. We have revised the manuscript according to the points that the reviewers have made. In the following, we summarized their comments and our responses. Thanks again for your time and kindness. We look forward to the further information after your reviews.

Sincerely,

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1. RE: Trial Registration Number

Response:

Thank you very much for your recommendation. We did consult the Department of Health (DOH) (Taiwan Government) to inquire about the qualified clinical trial number from ICMJE or any WHO organization. They told us that: This study had been performed between 2000 and 2003. At that time (in 2000), our government is isolated and our DOH is not a member of WHO. Therefore, we regret for not having the clinical trial registration number that is enrolled into ICMJE. However, we do have the clinical trial registration number issued by our DOH, i.e.:

DOH-TW-0890036458, which had been put at the last section of Abstract.

2. RE: Ethics

Response:

Thank you very much for your recommendation. We added a paragraph at the beginning of the section of “Study Design”, i.e.: Ethical approval has been granted by Ethics Committee of Department of Health, Taiwan (Ref: DOH-TW-0890036458) and the participating medical centers, including National Taiwan University Hospital, the Taipei Medical College Hospital, and the Tri-Service General Hospital, in Taipei, Taiwan.
3. RE: Authors' contributions

Response:

Thank you very much for your recommendation. We added a section of Authors' contributions after the section of Competing interests, i.e.: All authors have read and approved the final manuscript. T-L H.- drafted the manuscript, interpreted of data and participated in its design and coordination. C-C C., S-C C., and C-H L.- investigated and followed patients. C-H L. investigated, followed, and clinically managed patients. C-L T.- initiated the study and participated in its design and coordination.

4. RE: Acknowledgements

Response:

Thank you very much for your recommendation. We added a section of Acknowledgements after the section of Authors' contributions, i.e.: Hyalgan is kindly provided by Fidia Farmaceutici SpA and Med Pharma Co., Ltd.