Author's response to reviews

Title: Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction with quadriceps tendon autograft and press-fit fixation using an anteromedial portal technique

Authors:

Ralph Akoto (rakoto@me.com)
Juergen Hoeher (jhoeher@t-online.de)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Mr. Shipley,

thank you for reviewing our manuscript.

Below, please find the replies to your comments in a point by point manner. Following your suggestions we have also revised the manuscript accordingly.

Question/comment: Thank you for your recent submission to BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. Before we can proceed further with your manuscript, we require you to provide clarification on ethical approval for your study.

Reply: We have added the ethical approval number from our local university.

Question/comment: Please clarify whether the technique used in your manuscript is used as a part of standard care at your institute.

Reply: The technique described in our paper been modified from a well established transtibial drilling technique using the quadriceps tendon as been published before. With the promising results from our patients we now use the technique routinely in a selected patient group. Therefore it has become a part of standard care at our institute.

Question/comment: Please clarify whether you have obtained ethical approval for this study and whether this approval covers the intervention made, or the analysis of patients’ medical records.

Reply: In order to evaluate outcome of our patients we have received approval from the ethical committee of the university of Witten-Herdecke which our hospital belongs to.

All patients at our institutions give informed consent to a pseudonmonic analysis of their surgical data for research purpose before the begin of treatment. Within this standardized prospective treatment protocol Outcome data are obtained from all patients undergoing ACL reconstruction according to the suggestions of the International Knee documentation committee with both application of a subjective questionnaire as well as the clinical evaluation leading to a score from normal (A) to severely abnormal (D).
Nevertheless, we have obtained ethical approval from our University for a study analysing patients with this innovative surgical technique. Further, we have received approval for obtaining computer tomography in our patients postoperatively (Ethics committee, University Witten / Herdecke, Number; 109/2010).

Question/comment: Please clarify whether you have obtained whether they have consent for publication of the scan shown in figure 7.

Reply: We have consent for publication of the scan in Fig 7.

Question: Please revise your manuscript to provide some more details on the patients who underwent the intervention. You should explain who they were, why they were chosen and provide some more details about them and about how the follow-up was done.

Reply: In the methods section we have added a paragraph outlining the inclusion and exclusion criteria as well as the outcome parameter that were used. In the results section we have added the demographic data of the patients described in this analysis including age and sex.

Sincerely,

Juergen Hoeher

(corresponding author)