Author’s response to reviews

Title: Principles of brain plasticity in improving sensorimotor function of the knee and leg in patients with anterior cruciate ligament injury: A double-blind randomized exploratory trial

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Dear Editor,

We are well aware of the ICMJE criteria and the obligation to register clinical trials that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention. However, our study had a different approach. The need to explore and test underlying hypothesized mechanisms of injury/disease and recovery is fundamental for developing new therapies. Our study was an RCT, but because of its exploratory character we did not follow all details according to the CONSORT guidelines. The subjects were not followed prospectively over time; they were only assessed before and after 90 minutes of anesthetic or placebo cream. From our point of view, our study was an innovative experimental clinical research trial rather than a clinical trial with a prospective design assigning subjects to intervention. For this reason, we did not register our trial in a registry.

Sincerely,
Eva Ageberg, PT, PhD