Author’s response to reviews

Title: Changes in bone marrow lesions in response to weight loss in obese knee osteoarthritis patients: A prospective cohort study

Authors:

Henrik Gudbergsen (drhg@dadlnet.dk)
Mikael Boesen (mikael.boesen@gmail.com)
Robin Christensen (robin.christensen@frh.regionh.dk)
Else M Bartels (emb@frh.regionh.dk)
Marius Henriksen (marius.henriksen@frh.regionh.dk)
Bente Danneskiold-Samsøe (bds@frh.regionh.dk)
Henning Bliddal (henning.bliddal@frh.regionh.dk)

Version: 3 Date: 21 January 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
Thank you for the input given by yourself and the reviewers.

With respect to the reviewers comments I have addressed these in the following way referring to line numbers in the manuscript document containing track changes (manuscript with track changes.21jan2013).

The manuscript document containing track changes has been uploaded under the section named “Additional material files” on the webpage. The manuscript document without track changes has been uploaded under the section named “Main manuscript” on the webpage.

Reviewer 1

**Major 1 / Reviewer comment:** Ancillary analyses  
**Author response:** A sensitivity analysis focusing strictly on patients with BMLs at baseline is, from our point of view, the most correct approach for the request to further support the results from this study. Applying a method in which we classify patients with no change as responders is not deemed correct with respect to existing literature within this area. It is simply unknown whether a no-change in BML scores within a 16 weeks period is to be considered as a response.  
**Author action:** Please see lines 347-349 and table 3.

**Minor 1 / Reviewer comment:** Background, missing description  
**Author response:** Indeed correct. A description of this has been added to this section.  
**Author action:** Please see lines 119-120.

**Minor 2 / Reviewer comment:** Conclusion, time frame  
**Author response:** Agree, this has been clarified.  
**Author action:** Please see lines 476-478.

**Minor 3 / Reviewer comment:** Felson, 6-12 weeks paper.  
**Author response:** Agree.  
**Author action:** Please see lines 383-385 and 476-478.

Reviewer 2

**Major 1 / Reviewer comment:** BML changes and malalignment.  
**Author response:** Accepted.  
**Author action:** Please see lines 392-399.