Author's response to reviews

Title: Gait analysis of C57BL/6 mice with complete Freund's adjuvant-induced arthritis using the CatWalk system

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Associate Editor

*BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*

BioMed Central Ltd, Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road,

London, WC1X 8HB, United Kingdom.

Re: MS: 1091119511784276 - Gait analysis of C57BL/6 mice with complete Freund's adjuvant-induced arthritis using the CatWalk system.

Dear Prof Pascal Richette,

Please, find uploaded the revised version of our manuscript. With these changes we hope that our article is suitable for publication on the *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*. I wish to thank you and the two reviewers' efforts with our paper.

Please, find below the point-by-point responses to the reviewers' comments indicating where changes have been made.

Sincerely yours,

Willias Masocha, PhD
Responses to reviewer's queries

**Reviewer:** Peter van der Kraan

1. References have been updated in order to include articles relevant to our study.
   
   The study by Vincelette et al., 2007 had been cited before in line 3 of the Background section. We have now elaborated the contribution of this study on the dynamic parameters in mice.

2. On page 10 Monoarthtic has been changed to monoarthritic

**Reviewer:** Norbert Pallua

1. We have now included a group where we injected PBS in order to see the effect of the injection and volume since there is no vehicle for CFA. No changes were observed between the ipsilateral and contralateral limbs, suggesting that the changes we observed previously were due to CFA not the injection.

2. For previous Figures 1, 2 and 3 we had used 8 animals per group to evaluate the effects of CFA on gait. We have now increased the group to 12 animals.
   
   The drug treatment groups, previous Figures 4 and 5, were the ones with 5-6 animals per group. Which has now been increased to at least 8 animals per group.

3. The previous total number of animals was n=32 but 1 died during anesthesia, thus the proper n = 31, because of 8 FCA treated used for gait analysis up to 7 days + 6 FCA inoculated and treated with drug vehicle + 6 FCA inoculated and treated with 0.1 mg indomethacin + 5 FCA inoculated and treated with 1 mg indomethacin + 6 FCA inoculated and treated with 10 mg indomethacin
Now the \( n = 55 \) i.e. of 12 FCA and 7 PBS treated used for gait analysis up to 7 days + 10 FCA inoculated and treated with drug vehicle + 8 FCA inoculated and treated with 0.1 mg indomethacin + 9 FCA inoculated and treated with 1 mg indomethacin + 9 FCA inoculated and treated with 10 mg indomethacin. The numbers of animals used for each set are also indicated in the figure legends.

4. Previously, there was one author because the other person, Dr Parvathy, ‘s role had been limited to technical help because of other duties and time limitations. Now, she has been involved in the revision of the manuscript plus data analysis and is included as a coauthor.