Author's response to reviews

Title: Functional improvements desired by patients before and in the first year after total hip arthroplasty

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We regret that our recent submission was not complete and resubmit the manuscript for consideration for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. The title of the manuscript is: "Functional improvements desired by patients before and in the first year after total hip arthroplasty". 1021992396800543.

The requested changes have been made in the manuscript. In the Methods section we have added information about the approval of an ethics committee and the patients’ written consent for participation in the study. We have also added a title page including all information about the authors, as well as the abstract.

The following authors have designed the study (KEH, AE, AMM), gathered the data (KEH) analyzed the data (KEH, AE, AMM), written the initial draft (KEH, AE, AMM) and secured the accuracy of the data and analysis (KEH, AMM).

I confirm all authors have seen and agreed with the contents of the manuscript and confirm the work has not been submitted or published elsewhere in whole or in part.

As Corresponding Author, I (and any other authors) understand BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders requires all authors to specify any contracts or agreements they might have signed with commercial interests supporting any portion of the work. I further understand such information will be held in confidence while the paper is under review and will not influence the editorial decision, but that if the article is accepted for publication, a disclosure statement will appear with the article. I have selected the following statement(s) to reflect the relationships of myself and any other author with a commercial interest related to the study:

All authors certify that they have not signed any agreement with a commercial interest related to this study which would in any way limit publication of any data generated for the study or delay publication for any reason.

The present manuscript is an original full-length research report where we have described the desires of a group of patients regarding improvements in physical functioning before they underwent total hip arthroplasty and 3 and 12 months after surgery. The patients’ desires are free-text responses which are systematised and coded by using The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). We found that the patients’ free-text responses were mainly to be classified under Activities and Participation component of the ICF. The highest proportions of desires before surgery and 12 months after surgery were related to recreational and leisure activities and to walk long distances, but at 3 months the patients were more concerned about immediate problems related to the operated hip joint, such as stair climbing and putting on socks and shoes. This may implicate how to evaluate outcomes from a patient perspective.
The study was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration for Medical Research. All the informants were willing to participate, and the study was approved by the Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics and the Norwegian Social Science Data Services.

The manuscript has not been published previously. Neither will it be submitted, or considered submitted to other journals before your editorial board has taken a decision about its acceptability.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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