The question which was posed by the authors of this paper was to examine intraarticular cytokine levels in patients with osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) of the ankle and to investigate the relationship of cytokine levels in lavage fluid with clinical parameters of OCD. The authors of this paper outlined their hypothesis as stage dependent and disease specific regulation patterns in OCD. However, the manuscript has a number of avenues open for improvement.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The title is simply too broad for the study. More relevant title should be as follows: “Association between intraarticular cytokine levels and clinical parameters of osteochondritis dissecans in the ankle”

2. The abbreviation of cytokines, ELISA, MRI, FFI, CFSS, AOFAS, ICRS, and OA used in the abstract and introduction should be spelled out before they are used in the text.

3. Are all these cytokines correlated with age? Are all these cytokines detectable in every subject? How many subjects could be detected/undetected in lavage fluid? In general, it has been known that these cytokines present in very tiny amount in synovial fluid, especially BMP-2/7, bFGF, CD105 in lavage fluid. What is the sensitivity of ELISA assay for each cytokine?

4. In the results, the authors did not show the mean values of each cytokine studied. These data could be illustrated in Table or Figure.

5. Figure 1, 2, 3, and table 2 should be limited to the association of cytokines/total protein content between OCD patients and clinical parameters. Including the association of cytokine levels and clinical parameters here may be redundant and inappropriate since there is no internal control.

6. The authors conclude that their data indicate that decreased levels of IGF-1 and IGF-1R correlate with OCD progress. The only data presented are for a single time point in a cross-sectional study and cannot be extrapolated to determine OCD progress (conclusion page 8).
7. Since this study was a cross-sectional study, it is not possible to determine a definite cause and effect relationship and there is no control of lavage fluid. Please mention in the limitation.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None