Author's response to reviews

Title: Systemic alendronate prevents resorption of necrotic bone during revascularization. A bone chamber study in rats.

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PDF covering letter
Cover letter:

**Reviewer 1** (prof Geoff Nicholson):

*Agarwala S et al…* The "letter to the editor" is now cited in the manuscript and in the reference list and the results are discussed as suggested.

*It has been...* The text has been clarified and altered according to suggestion.

**Reviewer 2** (prof K W Ng):

*Did the authors ...* In this paper, we are interested primarily in bone resorption, or the result of osteoclastic activity. Therefore, we have evaluated bone volume, which we consider to be a more exact parameter in this model than the number of osteoclasts. For practical reasons, three sections from different depths of each specimen were analysed and bone volume was estimated. Since osteoclasts are mobile and disappear after a relatively short period of activity, time is added as another confounding factor that could hamper the results, if you choose to evaluate the treatment with the number of osteoclasts. TRAP staining has been done on similar specimens in our lab, and bone volume evaluation with point counting is not possible from that type of stain if you wish to distinguish between host bone and graft bone.

*However, the authors...* We agree that it would be more interesting to present results were the two dose groups could be compared. We have therefore performed another experiment with low dose treatment, this time with animals from the same breeder that provided the animals for the high dose group. In the revised manuscript, the low dose results from this new series replace the results from the earlier low dose group. There is no statistical difference between the controls of the high dose group and this later low dose group.