Author's response to reviews

Title: 50 years experience with Dupuytren's contracture in the Erlangen University Hospital - A retrospective analysis of 2919 operated hands from 1956 to 2006

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for your kind help and for the acceptance of this paper.

1.) We read the http://www.biomedcentral.com/6115516914167571_comment.pdf comment.

We fully agree with this reviewer that there is not that much new aspects, but we want to state that this is the largest series of patients operated upon Dupuytren's contracture in a single center and that this is the first report on such a long time survey with such a number to confirm and to object some common ground acceptations that have not been validated so far by others in such a manner.

2.) The guidelines of the ethics committee of the University of Erlangen were strictly followed. Since this a retrospective study and no personal data of any of the subjects are revealed to anybody no further ethics committee approval was needed.

3.) No competing interests are existant and we include this passage of a 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors’ contributions. If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.

4.) B L and V P carried out the study of the patient's record charts, and drafted the manuscript and performed the statistical analysis of data.

R E H conceived and designed the study, wrote the final manuscript version. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

The revised manuscript will be uploaded directly.

Very sincerely

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