Author’s response to reviews

Title: Toe spreading ability in men with chronic pelvic pain syndrome

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Response to the comments raised by Reviewer "Vance Berger"

We performed an additional statistical analysis and compared the toe-spreading scores between the two groups using a permutation test as suggested by the reviewer (Berger, VW, Zhou, YY, Ivanova, A, Tremmel, L (2004). "Adjusting for Ordinal Covariates by Inducing a Partial Ordering", Biometrical Journal 46, 1, 48-55). The statistical analysis has been briefly described and also referenced to the same article. The related changes can be observed in the methods and results section.

The result of the new analyses showed a p-value of 0.005 and it did not change our discussion pertaining to this observational finding of toe-spreading in men with CPPS.

Response to the comments raised by Reviewer "Ahmed N Ghanem"

1. We carried out additional statistical analyses and compared the toe-spreading scores between the two groups using a permutation test as suggested by Berger et al. (Berger, VW, Zhou, YY, Ivanova, A, Tremmel, L (2004). "Adjusting for Ordinal Covariates by Inducing a Partial Ordering", Biometrical Journal 46, 1, 48-55). The result of the new analyses showed a p-value of 0.005 and it did not change our discussion pertaining to the observational findings in toe-spreading in men with CPPS. We think the reviewer’s questions related to the statistical analysis will be better answered with the new statistical analyses.

2. We are not using the word "proved" anywhere in the revised version of the manuscript. Moreover, we paid close attention to our conclusive statements in order not to imply a "cause-effect" relationship between toe-spreading and CPPS in men.