Author's response to reviews

Title: Study protocol for patient response to spinal manipulation - a prospective observational clinical trial on physiological and patient-centered outcomes in patients with chronic low back pain

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Version: 5 Date: 21 July 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Staff,

I am writing to you in response to the request of the following request:

“Thank you for responding to our queries regarding your above submission to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and for confirming that the images in your manuscript are of research personnel. However, since these are identifiable image of humans, we would still require that consent to publish be obtained from these personnel, and a statement to this effect be included in your manuscript”. And

“Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.”

I have obtained written permission from all research personnel who have appeared in Figure 1, 2, and 4, including those with only part of their bodies shown in these photos, to use their image for the current manuscript. Their written consents are available upon request. Also the following statement has been inserted in the Acknowledgment section on page 33, line 18-20 and highlighted:

“All photographic images used in the current manuscript were taken from research personnel for illustration purpose and written permission was obtained for using their images”.

I and one co-author have double checked the format of the manuscript to the best we can.

The original, rev1, and rev 2 cover letter are attached below for your reference. If you have any additional questions and requests, please let me know. Thanks.

Sincerely yours

Ting Xia, PhD
Palmer College of Chiropractic
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Dear Editorial Staff,

I am writing to you in response to the request of the following information:

“Please confirm whether informed consent for the publication of the images featured in your figures was obtained from the patients shown, and include a statement to this effect in your manuscript. Please note that we reserve the right to request proof of this consent at any point”.

The photographic images featured in the manuscript were all taken on research personnel. No participants were involved. This is the reason we used the word “illustration” in the titles for figures 1 and 2. To avoid potential confusion, we have updated the title for figure 4 to make it consistent with figures 1 and 2 (pp 45, line 26 highlighted in yellow, also shown here for your convenience).

(old) Figure 4 Participant placement for segmental load assessment during side-lying high-velocity spinal manipulation.

(new) Figure 4 Illustration of segmental load assessment during side-lying high-velocity spinal manipulation.

The original cover letter and rev1 cover letter are attached below for your reference. If you have any additional questions and requests, please let me know. Thanks.

Sincerely yours

Ting Xia, PhD
Palmer College of Chiropractic
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June 13, 2014

Dear Editorial Staff,

I am writing to you in response to the request of the following modification:

“Thank you for providing us with documentation showing that your institutional ethical review board approved your study. However, we would ask you to revise the ethics statement in your manuscript in order to render it completely clear that your trial has received this approval. The full name of your review board should also be included in this statement.”

To address the request, on page 10, line number 4, Section Methods/Design Study Population, an ethics statement is added (highlighted) as the first sentence:

“Ethics approval was obtained from the Palmer College of Chiropractic Institution Review Board (IRB) with the Assurance Number - X2011X141.”

The original cover letter is attached below for your reference. If you have any additional requests, please let me know. Thanks.

Sincerely yours

Ting Xia, PhD
Palmer College of Chiropractic
ting.xia@palmer.edu
June 12, 2014

Dear Editorial Staff,

I am pleased to submit the manuscript “Study protocol for patient response to spinal manipulation – a prospective observational clinical trial on physiological and patient-centered outcomes in patients with chronic low back pain” to *BioMed Central’s Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. I believe that this manuscript describes an original and innovative clinical trial and is well suited to the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine’ scope and readership. This trial is registered in ClinicalTrials.gov, with the ID number of NCT01670292.

The work is funded by National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institute of Health, Grant Number 5U19AT004663. The study protocol was approved by the Palmer College of Chiropractic IRB (X2011X141). Copies of official documents are attached below.

Sincerely,

Ting Xia, PhD
Assistant Professor
Palmer College of Chiropractic Research