Author's response to reviews

Title: The Challenge of Recruiting Patients Into a Placebo Controlled Surgical Trial - an observational study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor!

This manuscript describes the recruitment challenges for an ongoing placebo controlled orthopedic trial of arthroscopic partial meniscectomy. Publication of the manuscript will hopefully provide inspiration for others to conduct placebo controlled surgical trials.

Only few randomized orthopedic trials exist and even fewer are placebo controlled. This makes it an ongoing challenge to make evidence based clinical decisions and many guidelines and recommendations within orthopedics are based on observational studies only.

We need more RCTs to heighten the quality of orthopedic research to improve clinical decision-making. With this manuscript we aim to show the feasibility of performing a placebo controlled surgical RCT and we hope to deliver some guidance on trial conduct and successful recruitment of patients.

Best Regards

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