Author's response to reviews

Title: Trial to Re-evaluate Ultrasound in the Treatment of Tibial Fractures (T.R.U.S.T.): A Multicentre Randomized Pilot Study

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MS: 1927599722100081

Dear Drs. Altman, Furberg, Grimshaw & Rothwell:

We have received, and reviewed, the reviewers' comments on our manuscript:

As requested, we have added the following statement to our manuscript:

"Availability of data. For this research, full access to the data was not available. However, the Editors-in-Chief considered it important to publish the article to help disseminate the information that was available."

Editorial requests:

1. Please include the date your trial was registered with your trial registration number in the Abstract.

Reply: When we undertook to complete this request we realized that the trial registration number we had reported was for the definitive TRUST trial and not the TRUST pilot study. We have now replaced the trial number with the following statement: "We developed, but did not register, a protocol prior to conduct of the trial."

2. Please mention each author individually in your Authors? Contributions section. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to
each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Reply: We have amended our Contributors' statement to include each author individually.

3. For completed randomised controlled trials, Trials requires the submission of a populated CONSORT checklist and flow diagram. The flow diagram and the checklist should be provided as additional files (http://www.trialsjournal.com/authors/instructions/research#preparing-additional-files). Submissions received without these elements will be returned to the authors as incomplete. A Word file of the checklist and flow diagram can be downloaded here (http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/).

Reply: We have completed and uploaded a CONSORT checklist. Our CONSORT flow diagram is Figure 1 in our manuscript.

We appreciate your attention to our study, and remain hopeful that our manuscript will be suitable for publication in Trials. All authors of the original manuscript have read and approved the revised version of the paper.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jason Busse