Author's response to reviews

Title: Is the 0.018-inch or the 0.022-inch bracket slot system more effective in orthodontic treatment? Study protocol for a randomized clinical trial.

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Version: 2 Date: 20 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Covering letter for the revised manuscript

Dear Journal editors

I am writing to submit the revised manuscript according to the reviewers and editorial request for the study protocol entitled, “Is the 0.018-inch or the 0.022-inch bracket slot system more effective in orthodontic treatment?: Study protocol for a randomized clinical trial.

Section A: Reviewer’s comments

1. Reviewers comment: There is no distinction made with which type of malocclusions that will be treated and whether an equal number will be placed in each group. As we know some malocclusions may be treated faster than others.

Correction: The section below was added to “participant’s inclusion criteria” section. Also, the exclusion criteria explain that severe cases like extensive hypodontia and orthognathic cases will be excluded.

“Patients who are eligible to receive treatment in the NHS Scotland should have a significant need of treatment which requires an IOTN score of 4 or 5 for the dental health component; or a score of 3 combined with high aesthetic component score (>6). All types of malocclusion (Class I, II and III malocclusions) will be recruited in the study including cases which require extraction or non-extraction as part of the treatment plan.”

The process of random allocation of the treatment intervention for the calculated sample size (216 patients) will allow for equal chance for the different types of malocclusion to be placed equally in both of the study groups.
2. **Reviewers comment:** Also there is no mention on whether you have extraction or non-extraction patients. Again equal spread between groups is important.

**Correction:** The following was added to

“All types of malocclusion (Class I, II and III malocclusions) will be recruited in the study including cases which require extraction or non-extraction as part of the treatment plan.”

The process of random allocation of the treatment intervention for the calculated sample size (216 patients) will allow for equal chance for the extraction and non-extraction cases to be placed equally in both of the study groups.

**Section B: Editorial requests**

1. Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol.

   **Correction:** Title style amended. Title: “Is the 0.018-inch or the 0.022-inch bracket slot system more effective in orthodontic treatment? : study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.”

2. Please include the date your study was registered with your trial registration number at the end of the abstract.

   **Correction:** now added at the end of the abstract

3. Please remove the trial registration and ethical approval details from your title page.

   **Correction:** details now removed

4. Please move your funding information from the title page to the acknowledgment section.

   **Correction:** Funding information moved

5. Please remove the tables from the main body of your manuscript.

   **Correction:** The table removed from the main body and placed at the end of the document.

6. Please include discussion section after your Methods section.
**Correction:** Discussion section now added in page 17 after the Methods section.

7. Please include a figure title and legend section after the reference list.
   **Correction:** Section added after the reference list.

8. Please include an additional title and legend section after the figure legend section.
   **Correction:** Section added after the figure legend section.

Thank you for receiving our revised manuscript and considering it for review. We appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

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