Author's response to reviews

Title: A Comparative Assessment of Alternatives to the Full-Leg Radiograph for Determining Knee Joint Alignment

Authors:

Amir M Navali (amir_nvali@yahoo.com)
Leila Leila Azhar Shekoufeh Bahari (azhar76@yahoo.com)
Behrouz Nazari (behrroznazari31@yahoo.com)

Version: 2 Date: 28 October 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor, Dear Reviewers
Thank you so much for your valuable comments.
I do accept your suggestions and comments and have tried to use them to upgrade the paper.
These are the amendments and corrections:

Response to reviewer number 1

1. This is a prospective study and the time interval between radiograph and clinical examination which was less than 4 months is added to the main text (highlighted).
2. As mentioned in the paper we did not obtained another short film and all the measurements were done on the long x-ray but using only the knee region.
3. The goniometer measurements were done in standing position. (a photograph is added to the text).
4. The number of observer and inter- and intra-observer reliability are explained in the new version of the paper (highlighted).
5. As mentioned in the new version of the paper all radiograph should be obtained in a standing position and the appropriate references were added.
6. The 95% confidence intervals were mentioned in the related table.
7. Unfortunately, we did not perform any subgroup analysis.
8. A separate paragraph concerning the limitations of the study was added.

Response to reviewer number 2

1. The number of observer and inter- and intra-observer reliability are explained in the new version of the paper (highlighted).
2. According to WHO there is additional cut-off for BMI namely 30-32.49 which include mild form of class 1 obesity.
According to our statistician prior to statistical analysis the normal distribution of data were checked using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and Q-Q plot.

The discussion is fully revised and reflections are added.

Few studies that have investigated the validity of clinical methods for measuring knee alignment have done it in patients with osteoarthritic knee malalignment. This study evaluates the concurrent validity of the radiographic anatomic axis and clinical measures of knee alignment not only in patients with mild osteoarthritis (without subluxation) but also in young healthy individuals. The introduction is revised and includes this matter.

Thank you in advance for the time you will spend to read these corrections.

Respectfully yours

L. Azhar Shekoufeh Bahari
Corresponding Author