Author's response to reviews

Title: Nature and Incidence of Upper Limb Injuries in Professional Cricket Players A Prospective Observation

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reply template for Reviewer 1

(1) The authors agree that injury surveillance in India is underfunded.

Included in text of Discussion, last few lines.

(2) The use of the term “all rounder” and calculation of “injury incidence” as distinct from Dr John Orchard’s definitions is clarified in Material and Methods paragraphs 3 and 5.

Reply template for reviewer 2

• To include a significant number of players, we planned our prospective study on both professional as well as semi professional Cricketers associated with the PCA of all age groups, thus having a diverse age range of cricketers for analysis. The mean age of players evaluated was 18.84 years (range 14-34 years). This drawback of this type of analysis is that the study does not focus on age-wise distribution of players. Thus to evaluate the injuries in different age sub-groups (very young players, in teenagers and in test match players) a different study design with a larger number of players would be required. Even though the individual ages of the players have been added to the table, this type of evaluation, however, was not the principal aim of this project, as the basic issue was an attempt to document the incidence and
prevalence of injuries, to determine what type of documentation was routinely being done at the field level, how much loss of playing time was suffered by the PCA players and with what consequences.

- Tables 2 and 3 deal with distribution of injuries only and therefore do not include any column for standard deviation. A column of total injuries has been added to Table 2. With reference to Table 1, we noted that the training sessions have a uniform time table throughout the state of Punjab, India, which comprised of two to two and half hours of physical training in the morning followed by four hours of game practice in the evening session. Practice is usually done on six working days with a holiday on Sunday. However we found that most of the players, especially under 19 years, even played Local Street or club matches on Sundays. The compiled data in our study revealed that on an average each player used to practice for 5.46 hrs daily for 5.9 days a week and for 41.66 weeks in a year. The average player practice was a total of 245.4 days which amounted to 1351.9 hours in a year. This included time spent in playing matches and non Cricket physical training.

In order to maintain readability, Table 4 has been deleted.
• All highlighted grammar concerns in the article have been amended.