Author's response to reviews

Title: Use of clustering analysis in randomized controlled trials in orthopaedic surgery

Authors:

Hanna N Oltean (holtean@gmail.com)
Joel J Gagnier (jgagnier@umich.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Pura:

First we would like to thank the editors for their helpful comments on our manuscript. Please find attached the revised manuscript, entitled “Use of clustering analysis in randomized controlled trials in orthopaedic surgery,” which the authors submit to *BMC Medical Research Methodology* for consideration as a research article.

Here we will address each comment from the editors and provide our response in italicized text.

**Editor’s Comment**

Please include a title page at the front of your manuscript file. It should contain, at minimum, the names, institutions, countries and email addresses of all authors, and the full postal address of the submitting author. The authors details are missing from the title page. ☐☐

**Author Response**

Thank you for your comments, we have added a title page in the front our manuscript with all author details.

**Editors Comments**

Kindly rename Introduction with Background.

Kindly rename Material and Methods with Methods.

Please note that research articles require the following sections:☐☐-Background ☐☐-Methods ☐☐-Results ☐☐-Discussion (Results and Discussion may be combined) ☐☐-Conclusions ☐☐-List of abbreviations used (if any)

**Author Response**

Thank you for your comments, we have made all these changes in our manuscript.

**Editor’s Comment**

Please be advised that manuscripts must include a ‘Competing interests’ section. This should be placed after the Conclusions/Abbreviations. If there are none to declare, please include the statement “The authors declare that they have no competing interests.” Please consider the following questions and include an appropriate declaration of competing interests in your manuscript: ☐☐Financial competing interests ☐☐In the past five years have you received reimbursements,
fees, funding, or salary from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? Is such an organization financing this manuscript (including the article-processing charge)? If so, please specify. □ Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? If so, please specify. □ Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? If so, please specify. □ Do you have any other financial competing interests? If so, please specify. □ Non-financial competing interests □ Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify. □ For more information please visit the instructions for authors on the journal’s website. □ □

Author Response
We have include a competing interests section (line 358-359)

Editors Comment
For manuscripts with more than one author, all BMC Series journals require an Authors’ Contributions section to be placed after the Competing Interests section. □ An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) have given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship. □ We suggest the following 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. □ Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. □ □

Author Response
We have included an authors’ contributions section (line 361-364)

Editors Comment
By way of a section ‘Acknowledgements’, please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was
Author Response

We have included an acknowledgements section (line 366-368)

Again, we would like to thank the editors for their comments which have improved our manuscript.

Please let us know if you require any further revisions.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of all authors,

Joel J. Gagnier, ND, MSc, PhD, Corresponding Author
Assistant Professor
Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and Epidemiology
University of Michigan
MedSport
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, Lobby A
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-5736
734.930.7428
jgagnier@umich.edu

References