Author’s response to reviews

Title: Altered Achilles tendon morphology in individuals with chronic post-stroke hemiparesis: A case report

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Point-by-point response to reviewer comments: BMIM-D-19-00396R1

Please find the point-by-point responses to reviewer comments below in blue:

Reviewer comment:

The manuscript "Altered Achilles tendon morphology in individuals with chronic post-stroke hemiparesis: A case report" is in the final stages just one suggestion:

- Does the time of stroke make any difference in the findings/results? If not evaluated would recommend including a couple of more patients with recent stroke to compare.

Author response: Thank you. We appreciate the suggestion.

As discussed in our Background section, morphological changes, such as thickness and cross-sectional areas, have been observed in diseased tendons. While timeline was not explored in the earlier studies, we strongly believe that if examined at various time-points following the disease, a pattern of gradual adaptation would be observed. Our current working hypothesis in the lab is also in line with this belief for individuals with stroke-impaired nervous systems, and thus our motivation to begin this line of investigation.

For the purpose of this current submission, we are presenting preliminary findings as a Case Report, thus we presented 2 individuals with chronic post-stroke hemiparesis and 2 non-neurologically impaired individuals as controls, to highlight our novel finding of an altered morphology in the Achilles tendon in individuals chronically post-stroke. Establishing a timeline of adaptation changes post stroke is a different research question, which requires a larger scale design, and is part of our long term goal. Thus, for the scope of this Case Report, we would like to highlight the novel findings of chronic adaptations, as stated in our title.