Author's response to reviews

Title: Thrombocytosis after hip and knee surgery in rehabilitation setting: is it an occasional phenomenon? Relationship with deep venous thrombosis and functional outcome.

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Version: 3
Date: 25 February 2015

Author's response to reviews

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.
We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.
Title: Thrombocytosis after hip and knee surgery in the rehabilitation setting: is it an occasional phenomenon? Relationship with deep venous thrombosis and functional outcome
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Version: 1
Date: 25 February 2015
Author's response to reviews:
Reviewer: Anne S Laulund
Methods: ‘All subjects with thrombocytosis performed ultrasonography to assess DVT occurrence.’ change to ‘All subjects with thrombocytosis had ultrasonography to assess DVT occurrence.’

Reply: accordingly changes was performed in text: page 2, line 40

All subjects with thrombocytosis had ultrasonography to assess DVT occurrence.

Introduction: Dot missing after reference (11)

Reply: dot was added in text after reference

Materials and participants: 'patients who performed hip and knee surgery due to severe arthritis and fracture requiring surgical intervention or arthroplasty were enrolled. Those with infections, malignancy, neuro…' change to 'patients who had performed hip and knee surgery due to severe arthritis and fracture requiring surgical intervention or arthroplasty were enrolled. Those with infections, malignancy, neuro…'

Clinical and functional assessment: ‘A limitation of these scale lies in ’ change to ‘A limitation of these scales lies in—’

Degree of thrombocytosis: 'For our laboratory, normal the PLTC range…' change to 'For our laboratory, the normal PLTC range—'

Reply: the changes were performed in text, accordingly.

Page 4, line 116 .. who had undergone hip and knee surgery

Page 4, line 127 limitation of these scales lies in the definition

Page 5, line 150 the normal PLTC

Results: 'All patients who underwent TKA suffered from for severe knee osteoarthritis.' change to 'All patients who underwent TKA suffered from severe knee osteoarthritis. '

Reply: accordingly the change was performed in text.

Page 6, line 189 suffered from severe knee osteoarthritis.

Blood parameters: 'Conversely, mean D-dimers value was higher in old than young people: 614±345.6 vs. 542.8±317.6 (p=0.2)'. Is the p-value or the interpretation incorrect??

Reply: The p value was correct. Indeed D-dimers value was higher in old than young group, but not significantly. Thus, we changed the text:

Page 7, lines 225-226: Conversely, old subjects had non-significantly higher mean value of D-dimers than young people.

Functional outcome :

1) ' However, the young had significant better outcome than elder people in all functional assessment measures: 116.4±10.9 vs. 83.6±31.2, and 97.0±6.9 vs. 70.5±25.6 in young and…. ‘ P-value missing?

2) 'Interestingly, higher age and higher was the reduction in platelet count at the discharge (r=0.21, p=0.02).’ This sentence does not make any sense...
Reply:
1- We did not report the p value since it was reported in table 2. However, according to reviewer’s observation p values was added in the text: page 8, line 247 p = 0.004
2- The sentence was erased.

Discussion:
1) 'Among secondary thrombocytosis, surgery including coronary artery by-pass, major abdominal surgery and especially splenectomy [3, 1], is fairly common.' change to 'Among secondary thrombocytosis, surgery including coronary artery by-pass, major abdominal surgery and especially splenectomy [3, 1], are fairly common.'

2) 'A recent survey of PLTC in a large National cohort population' change to 'A recent survey of PLTC in a large national cohort population'

Figure 1 (flowchart): old<75 yrs change to old>75 yrs

Reply: Changes were performed in the text and figure.

Page 9, lines 274,275 Among secondary thrombocytosis, surgery including coronary artery by-pass, major abdominal surgery and especially splenectomy [3, 1] are fairly common

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests

Reviewer 2: Mary Barbe

Major Compulsory Revisions

Reply: according to reviewer’s suggestion, the discussion was shortened.

Minor Essential Revisions

The discussion has many grammatical errors that need fixing. A person for whom English is their primary language should be asked to proof read the discussion. The other sections are clear. The paragraph with “young people showed significant higher PLTC…” is the most unclear due to grammatical errors. Table 2 at end of submitted manuscript is misspelled

Reply: English was revised by professional proof reading service (Prof-Reading Service.com Ltd, Devonshire Business Centre, Works Road, Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire, SG6 1GJ, United Kingdom)

The author should consider strongly reducing the number of abbreviations throughout the manuscript. The manuscript will be much easier to use if the actual words rather than the abbreviations were used in most places. Only very
common abbreviations should be included. For example, use of major joint surgery rather than MJS, would be of benefit

Reply: according to reviewer's suggestion MJS was changed in major joint surgery throughout the manuscript. Furthermore abbreviations were reduced such as TVE (venous thromboembolism) and Hb.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests