Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of concentrated bone marrow aspirate in operative treatment of fifth metatarsal stress fractures; a double-blind randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Editorial Department of ‘BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders’

Version: June ‘15

**Reviewed submission:** The effect of concentrated bone marrow aspirate in operative treatment of fifth metatarsal stress fractures; a double-blind randomized controlled trial

Dear Editor,

Please consider the enclosed reviewed manuscript entitled ‘The effect of concentrated bone marrow aspirate in operative treatment of fifth metatarsal stress fractures; a double-blind randomized controlled trial’ by Hanneke Weel, Wouter H Mallee, C Niek van Dijk, Leendert Blankevoort, Simon Goedegebuure, J Carel Goslings, John G Kennedy and Gino MMJ Kerkhoffs for publication in the BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

We took the last comments of reviewer Luisa Trombi into account and adjusted the protocol. Point by point response to the comments is given below. The protocol, or parts of it, has not been submitted elsewhere.

We look forward for the possibility to publish our protocol in your journal.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer’s report Title: The effect of concentrated bone marrow aspirate in operative treatment of fifth metatarsal stress fractures; a double-blind randomized controlled trial
Version: 4 Date: 28 April 2015
Reviewer: Luisa Trombi

In my opinion, this protocol could be almost ready, however there are still some details which should be further clarified:

Line 27 - in the abstract the authors write “concentrated blood” but in line 133 they write “untreated blood”. I suggest to explain if peripheral blood will be centrifuged or untreated. Changed
Line 32 - “cB+cBMA, harvested from the iliac crest”: I suggest “cB and cBMA”, because cB isn’t harvested from the iliac crest. Changed
Line 37 - “composition of osteoprogenitors in cB + cBMA” is not a secondary outcome measure, it is, see lines 148-150, but I changed the sentence for understanding
Lines 95-97 - Please check the verbs: current tense or future tense? Changed into future
Line 99 - I suggest to add the age (with range) of the patients Line 102 - “Skeletally mature”. Minors are not enrolled? If yes, I suggest the authors to add a phrase like: “informed consent obtained by parents” phrase added
Line 133 - “will receive the cBMA”: I suggest to add: (4ml) added
Line 135 - “2 ml will be used” instead of “2 ml is used” changed
Line 153 - “intramedullary” instead of “intamedullairy” changed
Line 192 - “inpatient’s hospitalization”: the term “Inpatient” means patients in hospital, so you could write only “prolongation of hospitalization” changed
Line 238 - “will be performed” instead of “was performed” changed
Line 239 - “will be set” instead of “was set” changed
Line 240 - please check the phrase: “We argue that reducing this with 2 weeks would be clinically relevant” I don’t understand what we have to check. For sample size calculation you set an a priori clinically relevant.
Line 258 - “Fisher” instead of “Fischer” Changed
Line 262 - “depending on” instead of “depending of” changed

I hope these suggestions will be useful for the authors
Kind regards Luisa Trombi

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare i have not competing interests regarding this manuscript