Author's response to reviews

Title: Polymorphic variation of Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1 A (HIF1A) gene might contribute to the development of knee osteoarthritis. A pilot study

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COVER LETTER FOR ANSWERS_R2

Dear Editor:

We read the second report of the reviewers and we provided to answer the relative comments. We think that in the present version the paper is ready to be re-reviewed.

The reviewer 3 (Panagiotis Lepetsos) suggested to increase the sample size. We explained that this is part of near further investigation in this topic. In order to clarify this aspect we added the term “A pilot study” in the title. We believe that this can address the issue raised by the reviewer. We let to the editor further considerations.

Thank you for the attention you are paying to our paper.

Best regards.

ANSWERS TO REVIEWERS

Dear Editor.

Thank you for the interest in our paper. As requested we provided with the full postal address of the corresponding author
Reviewer 1: W den Hollander

We thanks the reviewer for the positive comments and the time employed to review our manuscript. As requested we perform a further English revision at the text.

Reviewer 3: Panagiotis Lepetsos

We thanks the reviewer for the positive criticisms and suggestions.

As manifested in our previous answer, we are aware that the sample size of our study is small to acquire solid conclusions. However, we believe that this pilot study could be the platform for further investigations in this topic. We are planning in a near future to perform a multicenter study including more patients in order to test the reliability and validity of our results. In order to specify this aspect, we clarify in the title that this is a pilot study. Finally we added a brief sentence in the discussion.

Reviewer 2: Won Sang S Park

We thanks the reviewer for the positive comments and the time employed to review our manuscript.