Author’s response to reviews

Title: Acromioclavicular joint dislocation treated with Bosworth Screw and additional K-wire fixation: Results after in mean 7.8 years - Still an adequate procedure?

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Acromioclavicular joint dislocation treated with Bosworth Screw and additional K-wire fixation: Results after in mean 7.6 years - Still an adequate procedure?

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Dear Umile Giuseppe Longo, M.D.

Thank you very much for your letter of 13th April 2017. We have carefully followed the verbatim comments of the reviewers and are enclosing a revised manuscript. All performed changes are marked in yellow for better identification. Responses to reviewers are listed below in detail.

Reviewer reports:

Amanda Esquivel (Reviewer 2): The authors did not address this comment from reviewer 1:

I am reluctant to agree on the conclusion of acceptable result with the method. There is a possibility that the same excellent result as in this study could be attainable with conservative treatment methods, but with rare complications and less costs.

Answer: Reviewer one is totally right, there is always the possibility to treat AC joint dislocations conservatively with similar outcome, which we have also explained in the conclusions. The complications associated with the herein presented techniques as well as the higher costs caused by the second intervention (metal removal) are also presented in this study. However, the goal was to present long-term results after surgical treatment with Bosworth screw and K-wiring and was therefore not compared to the outcome after conservative treatment. We will consider this in further studies.

I can't tell whether or not this was addressed. They appear to answer the first part but didn't include Synthes in the manuscript but it appears as though they didn't answer the second part. P5L86: "company": which company? "image converter": please explain in detail; or is it image intensifier?

Answer: The Bosworth screw is a 4.5mm non-cannulated screw from Synthes.

Answer: Your are right – it is an image intensifier – changes were made.

The company’s name of the Bosworth screw (Synthes) was included into the manuscript as suggested.

Page 4, line 43

"In the last years anatomic reconstruction of the CC ligaments with autogenous grafts has reached popularity [10, 11]. The thought behind them was that the graft enabled natural healing of the torn CC ligaments."
This language is awkward, consider re-writing it, here is a suggestion: Recently, anatomic reconstruction of the CC ligaments with autogenous grafts has become popular. The theory was that the graft enabled natural healing of the torn CC ligaments.

Answer: We improved English language by using the reviewer’s recommendation.

line 47

"A further surgical method" should be "Another surgical method..."

Answer: Changes were made as suggested by the reviewer.

Page 9, line 141 - Statistical analysis

For your continuous variables, some of this should be analyzed by repeated measures ANOVA. For example - your radiographs had 3 categories - pre-surgery, immediate post-surgery and latest follow up. These should be analyzed by repeated measures ANOVA.

Answer: Thank you for your input. We analysed our Data again with our statistician by repeated ANOVA with Bonferroni adjusted post-hoc analysis. After doing this we could show – same results as with the t-test – differences in the CC and AC measurement between pre- and post-surgery as well as pre-surgery and latest follow-up, however there were no differences between post-surgery and latest follow-up measurements.

An additional sentence was added in the statistic section: “Additionally, we used repeated ANOVA tests for continuous variables with Bonferroni adjusted post-hoc analysis.”

Page 13, Line 295

The ethical statement should be moved to the beginning of the methods section.

Answer: The ethical statement was additionally placed at the beginning of the Methods section.