Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-term outcome following additional rhBMP-7 application in revision surgery of aseptic humeral, femoral, and tibial shaft nonunion

Authors:

Simon Hackl (simon.hackl@bgu-murnau.de)
Christian Hierholzer (christian.hierholzer@usz.ch)
Jan Friederichs (jan.friederichs@bgu-murnau.de)
Alexander Woltmann (alexander.woltmann@bgu-murnau.de)
Volker Bühren (buehren@bgu-murnau.de)
Christian von Rüden (christian.vonrueden@bgu-murnau.de)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled "Long-term outcome following additional rhBMP-7 application in revision surgery of aseptic humeral, femoral, and tibial shaft nonunion" (manuscript number BMSD-D-17-00299R1). We would like to submit this revised manuscript for consideration in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. The authors once again appreciate your thorough review and positive assessment of this work. All changes have been highlighted in green colour.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

1. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works. Please refer to the attached document and re-phrase the highlighted sections in your own words to ensure no overlap.

Authors’ response:

Thank you for this valuable comment. As you suggested, we critically reviewed the entire manuscript and deleted textual overlaps.

2. Based on your manuscript being considered a clinical trial, ICMJE guidelines require BioMed Central to request your study be registered. The ICMJE uses the World Health Organization
(WHO) definition of a clinical trial, which is "any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes".

We would like to respectfully request that you retrospectively register your study in order to proceed with the submission process.

Suitable publicly available registries are those listed on the ICMJE website as well as any of the primary registries that participate in the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, including the ISRCTN registry, which is administered and published by BioMed Central.

Please include the trial registration number (TRN) and date of registration as the last line of the manuscript abstract. Please also state ‘retrospectively registered’. Please ensure to update both the submission system abstract and the main manuscript abstract.

Authors’ response:

Thank you for this valuable comment. As you suggested, this clinical trial has been registered retrospectively and approved by the ethics committee of the Bavarian State Chamber of Physicians, Bayerische Landesärztekammer, TRN: 2016-104, date of registration: 08/29/2016). The Bavarian State Chamber of Physicians approves clinical trials according to the guidelines of the German Clinical Trials Register which is registered in the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform and therefore according to the ICMJE guidelines.

The trial registration number (TRN) and date of registration have been included as the last line of the manuscript abstract. Also the term ‘retrospectively registered’ has been stated.

3. Please move the phrase: "Written informed consent for publication of this study and any accompanying images was obtained from the patients." from the Ethics section to the Consent to Publish section under the Declarations.

Authors’ response:

As you suggested, we moved this phrase from the Ethics section to the Consent to Publish section.

4. Thank you for providing a section on Ethics approval with the committee reference number. We would appreciate it if you could please revise this section and provide us with the full, official name of the committee which granted you approval for this study.

Authors’ response:

Dear editor, according to your concern, we amended this section. The study has been retrospectively registered and approved by the ethics committee of the Bayerische Landesärztekammer (Bavarian State Chamber of Physicians, www.blaek.de), TRN 2016-104, date of registration: 08/29/2016.
We hope the submission of our revised manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely,

The authors