Author’s response to reviews

Title: Expression of adiponectin in the subchondral bone of lumbar facet joints with different degrees of degeneration.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Minor revision

Dear editors of BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to minor revision and thank the reviewers for their work. Thank you very much.

Best wishes,

Bin Zhang
Reply Murali Malliga Raman (Reviewer 1):

I am grateful to you for the review of my manuscript review and your valuable advice. Tank you very much.

Comment 1: Page 11, Line 6 - The authors have mentioned that "Some recent studies have shown", however the reference number 12 is on the year 2006, which was not "recent". Either the author can quote some recent studies or can remote the term "recent"

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. I delete the term "recent"

(Background section, line 1, page 9).

Comment 2: Page 11, Line 14 - Authors have mentioned as "However, few studies have", probably giving the reference for that statement is preferable.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested, We inserted the reference.
(Background section, line 12, page 9).

Comment 3: Page 11, Line 29 and 34, symbol should replace a, b and g for TNF a and b and IFNg

Reply: As suggested, a,b and g were replace with TNF α and β and IFNg.

(Background section, line 21and 26, page 9).

Comment 4: Figure 2 a and b, In y axis "Adi" can be replaced with adiponectin.

Reply: As suggested, Figure 2 a and b, In y axis "Adi" have been replaced with adiponectin.

Reply Agata Burska (Reviewer 2):

I am very grateful to you for the review of my manuscript and your valuable advice. We have made detailed modifications to the manuscript according to your suggestion. Thank you very much!

Comment 1: By doing some corrections to ELISA section authors now deleted essential information on which molecules were actually tested by Elisa and by which ELISA kit (incl manufacturer) this information was provided in the first submission "L-1β, TNF-α, leptin, and
adiponectin by specific ELISA kits (RayBiotech, Inc.)." Please add this information back to this section.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested, L-1β, TNF-α, leptin, and adiponectin by specific ELISA kits were added in screening of chemical factors by ELISA of methods. (Methods section, line 24 and 25, page 12).

Comment 2: The description of manufacturer protocol for ELISA is to extensive in the new version and has to be shortened.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested, The experimental steps was shortened. (Methods section, line 26 - 42, page 12)

Comment 3: Also please replace term "hole " into well.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. This part was shortened.(Methods section, line 26-42, page 12)

Comment 4: On some figures abbreviation of Adi was added which is not introduced in the text and most of the figures have full name rather than this abbreviation- change to full name for consistency.

Reply: As suggested, we have made changes that adi was changed to adiponectin in all figures.

Comment 5: Fig 2. Remove decimals on the X and y axis and move the equation to the corner also it would be better to show r value +/- p value rather that equation as its more informative

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested , We have made a change in Fig 2.

Comment 6: In the Qualitative analysis of adiponectin by IHC section starts ( ***) in brackets are given, this is not proper form of expressing significant difference in the text . Remove stars and keep p values. The starts should be explained in the legends under the figures where appropriate.
Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested, the stars(*) was removed and keep p values (Result section, line 27,35,41, page 16). And the starts were explained in the legends under the Fig 4.

Comment 7: In the results’ sections: Qualitative analysis of adiponectin by IHC and WB the last sentences are rather conclusions than results and should be moved to discussion/conclusion section.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments. As suggested, the last sentences in IHC and WB were moved to discussion/conclusion section. (Discussion/conclusion section, line 10-13, page 20).