Author's response to reviews

Title: Mild (not severe) disc degeneration is implicated in the progression of bilateral L5 spondyloysis to spondylolisthesis

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Author's response to reviews:

22 January, 2018

Dr. James Mockridge
Senior Editor: BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders
London, United Kingdom.

Dear Dr. Mockridge:

On behalf of all my co-authors, I would like to submit the revised version of our manuscript entitled “Mild (not severe) disc degeneration is implicated in the progression of bilateral L5 spondyloysis to spondylolisthesis” that we hope you will consider for publication in the BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.
Below, please find our point-wise response to the issues raised by the Editor on our last submission.

Based on their expertise in this area of research, we would like to suggest following reviewers for the manuscript:

Vijay K. Goel, PhD
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I can confirm that: there are no potential competing interests related to this work, all the co-authors have read and approved this version of the manuscript, the manuscript has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Uphar Chamoli, PhD

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Response to the Editor's comments:

1. Please move your sub-heading ‘Declarations’ to after your Conclusion with the following order of statements:

   Ethics approval and consent to participate
   Consent for publication
   Availability of data and material
   Competing interests
   Funding
   Authors' contributions
   Acknowledgements (optional)
   Authors' information (optional)

   Response: Addressed as suggested.

2. Please confirm in your ethics statement in Declarations whether the participant consent was written or verbal. If it was verbal, please confirm that you received ethics committee approval for verbal consent and detail how you documented the consent.

   If the need for informed consent has been waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the Board or a reference to the relevant legislation.
Response: A written informed consent was obtained from the study participant for the use of their de-identified medical records for research purposes. The consent formed the basis of our Negligible Risk Research Ethics application to the University of New South Wales - Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel, which granted ethics approval for this project on 16-Sept-2016 (UNSW-NRR-HC16754). This has now been clearly mentioned in the Declaration section.

3. Please amend the email address of author "Ashish D. Diwan" so that it is identical in the manuscript and online submission.

Response: Corrected

4. Please remove your duplicate tables from within your manuscript file, leaving only the individual TIFF/EPS image files.

Response: Removed as suggested