Author’s response to reviews

Title: MULTISITE MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN IN MIGRANTS FROM THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT TO THE UK: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY

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Our response to the Editor's comments is as follows:

1. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an ethics committee or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the committee or a reference to the relevant legislation.

We have expanded the section on “Ethics and Consent to Participate” to include the nature of the consent obtained.

2. Please clarify whether the survey used in your study was developed for this study or has previously been published elsewhere. If the survey has been published elsewhere please provide a reference to it in your manuscript, if the survey was developed for this study please upload an English language version as a supplementary file.

We already make clear repeatedly, that the data that we analysed for this paper were from an earlier survey, which was published in 2008 as reference 5. This is mentioned in the Abstract.
(first sentence of methods), the last paragraph of the Introduction, the first sentence of the Methods, and in the fourth paragraph of the Discussion. It is unclear what else is required.

3. Please represent authors' names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors

We have changed first names to initials as requested. For consistency, we have done the same in the section on Funding.

4. Please rename the following sections to the heading capitalized and in brackets

Ethics [ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE] This is to adhere to Submission guidelines which can be found at https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbmc bioinformatics.biomedcentral.com%2Fsubmission-guidelines%2Fpreparing-your-manuscript%2Fresearch-article&data=01%7C01%7Cdnmc%40mrc.soton.ac.uk%7C6741e3968b844d174ef308d6278e5c9b%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C1&data=85kO5oLV7p%2BFhr17C7rDlW6IZZO0j0MJ33GGoU9cg%3D&reserved=0

We have added “and consent to participate” to the heading as requested.

5. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

We have clarified that the support from the UK MRC and Arthritis Research UK was through programme grants. We have also added than none of the funders had any role in the design of the study; collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; or writing the manuscript.
6. Please include an acknowledgements section within the Declarations. Please use this section to acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials.

We have added a section in the Declarations indicating that there are no acknowledgements (which was why we did not think the section was necessary).

7. At this stage, we ask that you submit a clean version of your manuscript and do not include track changes or highlighting.

This has now been done.