Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of functional metacarpal splint and ulnar gutter splint in the treatment of fifth metacarpal neck fractures: A prospective comparative study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Responses:

Editor Comments:

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.

Written informed consent was obtained from all patients. This explanation was added to "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section at Line 319-320.

2. “According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the definition of a clinical trial 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.” Please note a study does not need to be controlled or randomized in order to be considered a clinical trial. Therefore, we would like to request additional information regarding the details of your study.

1. Were the patients recruited prospectively before their surgery? OR were just their medical records analyzed?

The patients were recruited prospectively before their intervention, as written in Methods section at Line 111-113.

2. Was the surgery performed as part of standard practice, or was ethics approval required to perform it?

Both interventions (splint applications, not a surgery) were performed as part of standard practice but also ethics approval was obtained as stated in "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section at Line 316-319.

3. Please clarify if the two treatment options were implemented because of patient medical records/history, or whether this was to assess the outcomes of one technique against the standard care option.

Two treatment options were NOT implemented because of patient medical records/history. Both techniques are used as standard care options, we tried to compare these two different techniques in terms of their clinical results as stated at Line 104-108.

If your study is a clinical trial and is not already registered, please register it retrospectively to a suitable publicly available registry listed on the ICMJE website (http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/clinical-trial-registration.html). Please include the trial registration number (TRN) and date of registration as the last line of the manuscript abstract.”

The registration number and date of registration was added to the end of abstract at Line 84-86.

Trial registration
ISRCTN79534571
The date of registration: 01/04/2019

3. Please clearly indicate the corresponding author on your Title page.

Corresponding author was indicated in the title page at Line 50 as:
Mehmet Fatih Guven, Assoc. Prof. Dr. (Corresponding Author)

4. Please rename LEGEND TO FIGURES to Figure Legends.

This was corrected as requested.