Author’s response to reviews

Title: A multi-chamber tissue culture device for load-dependent parallel evaluation of tendon explants

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Author’s response to reviews:

October 11, 2019

James Mockridge, PhD
Editor
BioMed Central

RE: Manuscript Submission - Soreide et al.

Dear Dr. Mockridge,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “A novel tissue culture device for evaluating tendon explants” by Endre Soreide and colleagues to be considered for publication in BMC
Musculoskeletal Disorders. The manuscript has been revised to include the Figure Legends after the References.

Our manuscript describes a novel device for the in vitro assessment of tendon explants and their biologic response to controlled tensile forces in a comparative manner. Animal tendon tissues were used to validate the approach, comparability of treatment groups, and feasibility of measurable outcomes. From a tissue culture perspective, within-condition variability was lower than among-condition variability in every case. Although the effects of tension on cellular gene expression levels need further evaluation, we believe these findings to be clinically relevant during a time when the number of patients requiring tendon-graft-based ligament repairs is increasing. We hope you agree that researchers will benefit from direct assessments of the interplay between tensile force and biology within human connective tissues.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript, disclosed any potential conflicts of interest, and agreed with its submission to BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Andre van Wijnen