Author's response to reviews

Title: Musculoskeletal sequelae in patients with obstetric fistula - a case-control study

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Dear editor of BMC Women’s Health

Thank-you for your comments to our manuscript “Musculoskeletal sequelae in patients with obstetric fistula: a case-control study”. We have amended the suggestions in the manuscript and uploaded a new version using the change-tracking application together with a clean copy of the revised manuscript. The pages and line numbers corresponds to the new uploaded version using change-tracking.

"- 1. lines 304-307 don't fully make sense when comparing the reported results and the literature being referred to. It looks like possibly some information about the difference in BMI from the study is missing from the text. Please can they check and amend these sentences.

Answer: The fistula patient was of lower stature and weight and had a lesser arm circumference than the volunteer control. However, there was no difference in BMI between the groups suggesting that the fistula patient was proportionally smaller and of similar nutritional status. This is in line with the literature referred to (7). We have amended the text to improve clarity (page 14, line 320-22): “In that study as in the present, body mass index was equal in fistula cases and controls suggesting that their body proportion and nutritional status were similar”.

- 2. The conclusion (lines 342-345) contains comparators (e.g. more commonly, significantly lower) without mentioned the comparison group. The comparison group needs to be mentioned in the text, or the text rewritten to remove the comparators"

Answer: Page 15, line 362-364. The text is amended accordingly: “Women with obstetric fistula more commonly experienced leg pain and walking difficulties in the period after the injuring childbirth than the control group experienced after their childbirth”.

We hope our answers are satisfactory and that the manuscript has improved to a publishable level.

With kind regards

Merete Kolberg Tennfjord
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