

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

April 25, 2015



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17407-review-Revision 1.doc).

Title: Chronic and neuropathic pain after total knee replacement

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The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestions of reviewers:

REVIEWER 2704994

Major Compulsory Revisions

In "Introduction", some information is redundant, the author should revise the section of introduction and focused on the PPSP and NP. ... For example, the introduction may be consider to revised to ...

Reply

This was addressed and the INTRODUCTION was revised.

Total knee replacement (TKR) is a treatment of knee osteoarthritis to alleviate pain symptoms and improve mobility and physical functioning when other conservative treatments have failed [1-3].

It is a very common and successful procedure since 1970s for late stage osteoarthritis and there is a continuously increasing number in demand for primary TKR performed worldwide each year [4, 5]. However, not all patients are satisfied after TKR. Pain after TKR is stronger determinant of satisfaction than function [6]. An unfavorable pain outcome was seen in at least 8.0% and up to 26.5% of patients [7] and contribute to functional disability after TKR [6, 8-10].

Apart from the post-surgical pain that is a result of a specific cause, some patients suffer from a persistent post-surgical pain (PPSP) with no specific origin that represents an important cause for patients' dissatisfaction. Although the cause of PPSP is not known, it seems that some of the patients with PPSP after TKR suffer from neuropathic pain (NP) [11]. The International

Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) defines (a) as PPSP the pain that is being developed after surgery and exists beyond the time for normal healing and is present for at least 3-6 months [12] (b) NP is also defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain as the pain caused by a lesion or a disease of the somatosensory nervous system“ (IASP website, <http://www.iasp-pain.org/>) [13]. A wide variety of scores–tools have been used in order to assess the outcome postoperatively. Almost all scores or instruments -either objective (clinician-based) [14] or subjective (patient-reported) [15] or disease specific [3, 16] - being used for the study of the outcome, function and satisfaction after TKR, include some kind of pain assessment [17]. However, a standard definition of pain severity at follow-up considered a difficult issue to be applied and the need to improve assessment and measurement of musculoskeletal pain in the clinical setting is recognized. [18].

The purpose of this study is to present a review of the existing literature concerning the existence of PPSP and NP after total knee replacement for at least 3 months, including studies with main purpose the prevalence of the PPSP and NP after TKR using pain-specific instruments and not through other scores or instruments measuring functional outcome.”

Minor essential revisions

1. There was no line number in the manuscript.
2. Persistent post-surgical pain or persistent postoperative pain should be consistent in the whole manuscript. I suggest using the term: Persistent post-surgical pain.
Reply
This was addressed according to the reviewers; suggestion
3. Title: I suggested to revised the title to “persistent post-surgical pain and neuropathic pain after total knee replacement”
Reply
This was addressed according to the reviewers’ suggestion
4. page 8 line 18 Please explain the abbreviation of “CRPS”.
Reply
This was addressed according to the reviewers’ suggestion
“Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)”

REVIEWER 467045

Chronic and neuropathic pain after total knee replacement

1. I think the Abstract needs a concluding sentence as it sounds a bit open-ended.

Reply

This was addressed. The sentence “Consequently, firm conclusions couldn’t be reached” was added.

2. Introduction: p 3, first line: The authors say 'TKR represents a treatment of' when they mean 'TKR is a treatment for.' On line 3, avoid using informal language i.e. change 'It's' to 'It is.'

Reply.

This was corrected to “Total knee replacement (TKR) is a treatment of knee osteoarthritis”
And to “It is”

3. Introduction: p 3, Paragraph 4: This paragraph on the IASP is unclear and needs to be revised. What is (a) and (b)? The website address should be in the references with an access date.

Reply

This was addressed and changed to

“NP is also defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain as the pain caused by a lesion or a disease of the somatosensory nervous system” (IASP website, <http://www.iasp-pain.org/>)[13].

4. Materials and Methods: Under Literature Search, the sentence 'The study design filters were applied to the search strategies' is unclear. Can the authors please revise this?

Reply

This revised from “The study design filters were not applied to the search strategies. Thus, prospective and retrospective studies were included.”

To

“Both prospective and retrospective studies were included.”

5. Materials and Methods: Under Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria (p 5), the authors say they found a total of 112 articles but only 14 studies were selected. Why were only these 14 studies used?

Reply

The sentence “14 studies were selected for this review” is changed to

“Only 14 studies that match the inclusion criteria and measured pain with pain specific instruments were selected for this review.”

6. There are a few grammatical errors on p 7.

Reply

Line 5 “reduced at 5%” is changed to “reduced in 5%”

Line 8 “study 44%” is changed to “study, 44%”

Line 10 “Interestingly in” is changed to “Interestingly, in”

Line 23 “play an important role on chronic pain” is changed to “play an important role in chronic pain intensity”

Line 28 “The existence and prevalence of neuropathic pain (NP) has been reported” is changed to “The existence and prevalence of neuropathic pain (NP) have been reported”

7. Conclusion: First paragraph: The authors state the number of studies is small: is this the 14 or the 112 studies?

Reply

Conclusion, paragraph 1. "The number of the studies" is changed to "the number of the 14 studies".

REVIEWER 1200726

We thank Reviewer for his kind comments.

REVIEWER 2705621

Page 3 line 13: Please explain briefly what is the extrinsic knee pain after TKR.

Reply

This sentence has been changed according to a reviewers suggestion (**REVIEWER 2704994**)

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Orthopaedics*.

Sincerely yours,



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