

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Changes made according to the Editor's comments:

M1: core tip: added

M2:

- REF 3 deleted
- Deleted: "Approximately 17% to 50% of adults older than 60 years and 80% of adults older than 80 years may have rotator cuff pathologies."
  - Replaced with "With the advent of newer techniques, good to excellent results can be expected in the appropriately selected and compliant patient."

M3:

- New reference added at 106: **Randelli P**, Cucchi D, Ragone V, de Girolamo L, Cabitza P, Randelli M. History of rotator cuff surgery. *Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc.* 2015 Feb;23(2):344-62. [PMID: 25448135 doi: 10.1007/s00167-014-3445-z. Epub 2014 Dec 2].

Changes in response to reviewer 02709664:

1. ABSTRACT: Lines 90-92: "While AST are associated more commonly with degeneration and intrinsic factors, BST are more likely to result from extrinsic, intrinsic or internal factors." Removed
2. ABSTRACT: Lines 116-118: "There seems to be not much difference between early and delayed rehabilitation programmes at present." Changed to "Both early and delayed postoperative rehabilitation programmes have led to comparable outcomes."

3. ABSTRACT: Line 118: "Spontaneous healing of RC tendons in known to be poor and....." Removed
4. Line 163: "A study from Missouri, USA by Yamaguchi et al on 588 *symptomatic* patients evaluated for unilateral (U/L) shoulder complaints revealed 199 (33.8%) U/L and 177 (30.1%) bilateral (B/L) RC tears with average ages of 58.7 and 67.8 years respectively." Changed to "Yamaguchi et al, from Missouri, USA, evaluated 588 patients with unilateral (U/L) shoulder complaints. Their analysis revealed 199 (33.8%) U/L and 177 (30.1%) bilateral (B/L) RC tears with average ages of 58.7 and 67.8 years respectively."
5. Line 185: "An Austrian study by Schibany et al on 212 asymptomatic shoulders aged 56 to 83 (mean=67) reported USG-diagnosed, prevalence of FTT 6%." Changed to: "In a study from Austria on 212 asymptomatic shoulders, Schibany et al reported a 6% prevalence of FTT."
6. Line 191: "an higher" changed but please re-consider "a higher"
7. Line 201: "These wide and varying results from differing regions do, however, converge at certain points and help us in inferring that RC tears are present in up to 39% of asymptomatic individuals. This age-related high prevalence in asymptomatic individuals leaves one with the thought of whether the tears are a part of the normal aging process." Changed to: "Despite varied regional distribution, RC tears are prevalent in up to 39% of asymptomatic individuals. An age-related increase in incidence leaves one with the thought of whether the tears are a part of the normal aging process."
8. Lines 201, 219-223: addition of the article by Gumina et al. Ref no. 16 "Gumina et al on 586 patients with a history of arthroscopic tear repair, reported a mean age of 59 years. Patients older than 60 were twice as likely to develop tears which were larger and more massive."
9. Lines 240-248: paper by Carbone et al added. Ref no. 24

“In a study on 408 patients, Carbone et al found higher frequencies of smokers with at least a type II tear (34.8%) differing significantly from the type I patients (23.2%) and concluded that smoking negatively affects vascularity of tendons.”

10. Lines 253-257: study Gumina on hyperkyphosis and subacromial impingement added. Ref no. 27

“In an Italian study, Gumina et al compared the radiologically calculated subacromial space width in 47 patients with thoracic hyperkyphosis with normal controls. They found reduced acromio-humeral space in hyperkyphotic patients, females and patients older than 60 years. The authors attributed this decrease to less posterior tilting and dyskinesia of the scapula.”

11. Lines 482-484: “Until then, it is reasonable to assume that FTT should be closely followed for the worsening of symptoms, increase in size, muscle changes, fatty degeneration and operated when these signs become evident.”  
Removed

12. Line 601: “.... and training”

Changed to: “high-quality training of personnel performing the USG”

13. Line 686: “dyskinesia” changed to “dyskinesia”

14. Figure 3: New figure added

15. Shortening of the paper:

Dear Sir,

The authors have taken painstaking efforts to reduce the word count to as less as possible without significantly reducing or altering the factual content. We have, at the same time, tried our best to maintain the evidence-based nature of the text.