

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16223-Review.doc).

Title: Effect of body mass index on functional outcomes following arthroplasty procedures

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Name of journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

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

1 Format has been updated.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

Reviewer 1:

The most important question of this paper is that authors did not elaborate the process of rehabilitation and statistical analysis in details. Also, it is better to give accurate description on method session. The conclusion should be rewritten to give a summary of the research.

Response:

- (1) A detailed explanation for the process of rehabilitation was added to the text. Also the statistical analyses part had revised as recommended.
- (2) The method session revised.
- (3) The conclusion part had rewritten as recommended. All the changes are highlighted.

Reviewer 2:

General comments on the paper: An important question was that the authors did not describe with detail and accuracy methodology session, mainly on the evaluation protocol and rehabilitation process. Statistical analysis should be rewritten with details of all tests performed in the study. The results session should be rewritten because it is confusing and difficult to understand. The discussion session needs to be rewritten in order to discuss the findings with the literature and not only infer a study report. Please, it is extremely necessary review this point. The authors need to clarify and explain with more detail on the rationale of the study for better understanding the research problem and its clinical relevance. Just below follows some points to clarify the text content.

Response:

- (1) Methodology, rehabilitation process and statistical analysis part revised as your suggestions.

- (2) The result and discussion part was rewritten as your suggestions.
- (3) All the changes are highlighted.

Reviewer 3:

Authors aimed to study the effect of body mass index (BMI) on functional outcomes following arthroplasty procedures. They recruited 513 patients who underwent total knee arthroplasty (TKA), total hip arthroplasty (THA), revision knee arthroplasty (RTKA) and revision hip arthroplasty (RHA). Their follow-up time ranged from 2 to 26 months. Patients had control visits at the 1st month, 6th month, 12th months at the postoperative period. It is not clear how they received data from those who had follow-up less than 12 months. They compared BMI changes following arthroplasty procedures. Unfortunately they failed to collect data that would be valuable to study effect of BMI on functional outcomes. Data reported in the study could not reach any valuable conclusions. The conclusion is not evidence-based since they did not quantify mobilization level and did not record any change in eating habits. The study was poorly designed and could not provide any valuable data to discover the effect of BMI on functional outcomes following arthroplasty procedures. The correlation of BMI and functional outcomes following arthroplasty procedure was not investigated. The follow-up time is too short for almost half of their subjects. It would be more valuable if they could provide functional outcomes with longer follow-up time and focus on the relationships between BMI and functional outcomes for each subgroup. Grouping patients with different surgical procedures may overshadow some existing relationships.

Response:

- (1) There is a writing error. The least follow-up of the patients is 12 months. We are sorry for this mistake. It was corrected.
- (2) The main objective of our study was to assess the BMI change of arthroplasty patients independent from the other factors like comorbidities, eating habits and effect of this to the functional outcomes. A standard protocol had given to all patients in order to maintain standardization like weight bearing. The patients who could bear full weight had included to the study. This inclusion and exclusion criteria's had explained in the material part.
- (3) We hypothesized that most of the arthroplasty patients gain weight independent from other factors. So, we try to include most of the patients that we can do a standardization in their postoperative rehabilitation like full weight bearing with two crutches for energy expenditure.

All the changes are highlighted.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Orthopedics*.

Yours sincerely,

Gökhan Polat, MD
(on behalf of all co-authors)