

May 11th 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17251-edited AR.doc).

Title: Survey of current surgeon practice for patients undergoing lumbar spinal fusion in the United Kingdom

Author: Alison Rushton, White Louise, Alison Heap, Nicola Heneghan

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17251

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 reviewers

- (1) 'Any manuscript describing a study (basic research and clinical research) that used biostatistics must include a statement in the Materials and Methods section affirming that the statistical review of the study was performed by a biomedical statistician. Statistical review is performed before the submission or after peer-review. The author invites an expert in Biomedical Statistics to evaluate the statistical method(s) used in the study, including but not limited to the *t*-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-square test, ridit, probit, logit and regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise) modeling, correlation, analysis of variance, and analysis of covariance. The review by the biomedical statistician is conducted with respect to the following points: (1) Statistical methods are adequately and appropriately described when they are used to verify the results; (2) Whether the statistical techniques are suitable or correct; (3) Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. The number of observations and subjects (*n*) is given. Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study, are reported; (4) Values, such as ED50, LD50 and IC50, have the 95% confidence limits calculated and have been compared by weighted probit modeling (using the functions described by Bliss and Finney); and (5) The word "significantly" is replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P* value (if it indicates statistical significance). In addition, a copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s) or waiver should be provided to the BPG in PDF format'.

Author response: This study did not use biostatistics - only descriptive analysis.

- (2) 'A conflict-of-interest statement is required for all article and study types. In the interests of

transparency and helping reviewers to assess any potential bias in a study's design, interpretation of its results or presentation of its scientific/medical content, the BPG requires all authors of each paper to declare any conflicting interests (including but not limited to commercial, personal, political, intellectual, or religious interests) in the title page that are related to the work submitted for consideration of publication. In addition, reviewers are required to indicate any potential conflicting interests they might have related to any particular paper they are asked to review, and a copy of signed statement should be provided to the BPG in PDF format'.

Author response: A statement has been added to the title page as requested.

- (3) 'Basic research and clinical research studies require a data sharing statement. The data sharing statement will be provided in the title page, and will be presented in the following form: Technical appendix, statistical code, and dataset available from the corresponding author at Dryad repository, who will provide a permanent, citable and open-access home for the dataset. In addition, a copy of the signed statement should be provided to the BPG in PDF format'.

Author response: A statement has been added to the title page as requested.

- (4) 'Please offer the audio core tip, the requirements are as follows: In order to attract readers to read your full-text article, we request that the first author make an audio file describing your final core tip. This audio file will be published online, along with your article. Please submit audio files according to the following specifications: **Acceptable file formats:** .mp3, .wav, or .aiff **Maximum file size:** 10 MB To achieve the best quality, when saving audio files as an mp3, use a setting of 256 kbps or higher for stereo or 128 kbps or higher for mono. Sampling rate should be either 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz. Bit rate should be either 16 or 24 bit. To avoid audible clipping noise, please make sure that audio levels do not exceed 0 dBFS'.

Author response: The audio tip has been uploaded as requested.

- (5) 'Please put the reference numbers in square brackets in **superscript** before the end. Please check across the text'.

Author response: References in the text have been corrected throughout.

- (6) Please put the footnote into the main body of the manuscript. Thank you!

Author response: The footnote has been moved to the main body of the manuscript.

- (7) Please write the comments. **Writing requirements for each subsection** (1) **Background:** To summarize concisely and accurately the relevant background information so that readers may gain some basic knowledge about your study's relevance and understand its significance for the field as a whole. (2) **Research frontiers:** To introduce briefly the current hotspots or important areas in the research field as related to your study. (3) **Innovations and breakthroughs:** To summarize and emphasize the differences, particularly the advances, achievements, innovations and breakthroughs, as compared to other related or similar studies in the literature, which will allow the readers to assimilate the major points of your article. (4) **Applications:** To summarize the practical applications of your research findings, so that readers may understand the perspectives by which this study will affect the field and future research. (5) **Terminology:** To describe concisely and accurately any terms that may not be familiar to the majority of the readers, but which are essential for understanding your article.

Author response: The comments section has been added.

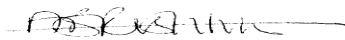
- (8) Please add PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors. Pleased

provide PubMed citation numbers for the reference list, e.g. PMID and DOI, which can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed> and <http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/>, respectively. The numbers will be used in the E-version of this journal. Thanks very much for your co-operation. Such as: 1 **Nayak S**, Rath S, Kar BR. Mucous membrane graft for cicatricial ectropion in lamellar ichthyosis: an approach revisited. *Ophthalm Plast Reconstr Surg* 2011; e155-e156 [PMID: 21346670 DOI: 10.1097/IOP.0b013e3182082f4e]

Author response: PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation numbers (where available) have been added to the reference list. All authors have been listed

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

Sincerely yours,



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