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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 27967

Manuscript Type: Original Article

August 19, 2016

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in .doc format (27967 revised manuscript.doc)

Name of Journal: World Journal of Orthopedics

ESPS Manuscript NO: 27967

Manuscript type: OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

Title: Effect of introducing an online system on the follow-up of elbow arthroplasty

Authors: Jetske Viveen, Ante Prkic, Bertram The, Koen L.M. Koenraadt, Denise Eygendaal

With the greatest of interest we have read the peer-reviewer's comments on our article. We have amended several points:

1. We have replied on the comments and we have adjusted the manuscript accordingly.
2. Changes are highlighted, as requested.

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

Kind regards,

Jetske Viveen
Department of Orthopedic Surgery

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Reviewer 1, no. 02444730

This is an interesting study, well presented. My only one comment is related to the reference to any existing literature. I believe that the authors should mention any existing literature concerning similar work (not necessarily on elbow prosthesis) in brief in the INTRODUCTION section. And compare the results of the current study to those of the existing literature in the DISCUSSION section. Thank you for your review. To the best of our knowledge, no literature is available about the effect of introducing an online database compared to (manual) paper follow-up.

Reviewer 2, no. 02444795

Please outline that this is a early stage pilot study. Please give consideration to telephone follow up both by yourselves and other studies. We have considered follow-up by telephone, but unfortunately telephone follow-up takes a lot of time. The online database sends questionnaires automatically, which consumes less time. If the patient forgets to fill in the questionnaires they will be actively recruited by phone as mentioned in the “Patients and Methods” part.

Thank you for reviewing this interesting paper. This manuscript is well written and it is about a relevant topic in orthopedic surgery. I have however some questions/comments to improve your manuscript.

1. are the proms (OES for example) as evaluated by your team validated in your language? Yes, the questionnaires are validated in our language.

2. you asses the proms in your hospital but you think it is more beneficial to assess these in national or even international databases? Yes, of course we think it is more beneficial to collect PROMs in national databases. However, this is still an early stage pilot study. In the Netherlands PROMs are collected on national scale for hip arthroplasty and we hope that PROMs for elbow arthroplasty will be added to this database in the future.

3. How do you deal with patients who are not familiar with the world wide web? Patients who are not familiar with the world wide web will receive paper questionnaires as mentioned in the "Patients and Methods" part of the article. However, we predict that more patients will be using email in the future.

4. is you database according the currently developed guidelines?
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27228230> Yes, our database is accorded to the currently developed guidelines.