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Case Control Study

Interleukin - 6 and ratio of plasma interleukin - 6 / interleukin - 10 as risk factors of symptomatic lumbar osteoarthritis

Suyasa IK *et al.* Risk factors of symptomatic lumbar osteoarthritis

I Ketut Suyasa, I Ketut Siki Kawiyaana, I Made Bakta, I Gde Raka Widiiana

We really appreciate for the valuable comments by the reviewers

We have respond their comments and improved our manuscript according to their suggestions.

1. *The selection criteria for each group are not clear.*

The inclusion criteria for each group including post menopause women with estrogen deficiency with lower back pain, women aged between menopause and 10 years after menopause and suffering lumbal osteoarthritis confirmed with plain x-ray lumbosacral.

The exclusion criteria for each group including have an acute or chronic infections which confirmed with physical examination and laboratory test, bilateral oovorectomy which is confirmed by interview, consuming corticosteroid drugs which is confirmed by interview, malignancies and history of lumbosacral spine trauma.

2. *If the patient had already degenerative disease in the lumbar spine is also not clear.*

The patient that already had degenerative disease in the lumbar spine was identified and confirmed by history taking, physical examination, lumbosacral x-ray AP/Lateral and Oblique view and also from laboratory findings.

3. *In other words, is degenerative spine disease is the result of menopause or is increasing with menopause.*

The degenerative spine disease is increasing with menopause. Hormonal changes that occur during menopause will affect the occurrence of degenerative spine disease. The estrogen level directly affecting the tissue via the receptors in chondrocytes metabolism.

4. *Introduction too long*

We have fixed our introduction in the revised manuscript.

5. *The English can be improved*

We have improved the English in the revised manuscript.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. I Ketut Suyasa, Sp.B, Sp.OT(K) Spine

Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology,

Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University Sanglah General Hospital,

Denpasar Bali 80133 - Indonesia. iksysta@gmail.com

Telephone: +62-361-227911

Fax: +62-361-224206