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ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Name of journal: World Journal of Orthopedics

Manuscript NO: 41636

Title: Humeral retroversion and shoulder muscle changes in infants with internal rotation contractures following Neonatal Brachial Plexus Palsy.

Reviewer's code: 03516969

Reviewer's country: New Zealand

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title: Humeral retroversion and shoulder muscle changes in infants with internal rotation contractures following Neonatal Brachial Plexus Palsy. Synopsis: Retrospective comparative MRI study. Abstract: The study examines humeral retroversion in infants post neonatal brachial plexus palsy plus internal rotation contracture. Introduction: Methods: 35 infants had MRI scans involving both shoulders after each had sustained a neonatal brachial plexus palsy. Retroversion of the humeral head was measured relative to the transepicondylar axis. The CSA of both infra-spinatus and subscapularis muscles were measured on MRI. Statistics: Fine. Results: There was significantly reduced humeral retroversion on the affected side compared to the other shoulder. Furthermore the CSA of both rotator cuff muscles measured were significantly reduced. Discussion: Please rewrite this section. The structure should be a short summary of your results (no more than 8 lines including the retroversion and muscle findings), comparison of your results to published results in terms of your main variables of interest then discuss the strengths and limitations of the study. Please comment more on the clinical relevance from this study's results. Figures/Tables: Good quality Conclusions: OK Overall decision: This is an interesting study clearly set out and completed. Accept with minor revisions.



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Reply Authors

We would like to thank the reviewer for his/her comments. We have changed our discussion section accordingly. Two additional statements on clinical relevance have been added in the discussion section and read as follows:

1. Nonetheless, the reduction in this muscle ratio does not support the theory that the internal rotators overpower the injured (paralyzed) external rotators, but suggests, that failure of the SSc to grow or develop may result in a contracted SSc, which restrict external rotation.
2. A large reduction in humeral RV when compared to the uninvolved side, at a very young age, could be a predictor (or an argument when apparent at an older age) for the necessity of a humeral derotational osteotomy, to provide adequate improvement of function of the hand, and possibly the elbow. Furthermore, this study shows that secondary osseous changes can occur within several months in this patient population.



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Reviewer's code: 02444715

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

the paper : Humeral retroversion and shoulder muscle changes in infants with internal rotation contractures following Neonatal Brachial Plexus Palsy. is well written and interesting paper The data presented support many previous papers but still worth reading and publishing

Reply from the authors.

We thank the reviewer for his/her comments and compliments.