

## Response Letter

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Lian-Sheng Ma  
Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief  
Editorial Office of World Journal of Orthopedics

Dear Editor,

We are submitting a revision for manuscript with reference No. 60858 entitled “Diabetic Foot: which one comes first, the ulcer or the contracture?”. We would like to thank the editors and reviewers for their valuable time and precious contribution. We greatly appreciate the inputs that will definitely improve this manuscript.

We are addressing the comments from reviewers as follows:

**1. The authors need to give more (pathogenetic hypothesis) details and describe their experience**

Indeed, the pathogenesis of diabetic ulcers have multifactorial origins. Of all the contributing factors, in this article we attempted to focused on explaining one of the precipitating factors, specifically the increased biomechanical loading (line 124). We have described numerous pathogenesis of this condition, including soft tissue contractures (line 132) and bony deformities (line144). However, to avoid misleading to the hypothesis, we had revised the conclusion, stating that the equinus deformity is only one factor among many. We had also added our experience briefly on conclusion (line 226-229) regarding this matter.

**2. The only concern is the title which raises a well question that has not been answered**

We are really sorry for not making it clear. It was meant to be a rhetorical question, in order to make a point rather than to get an answer. This review showed that there is a vicious cycle and could be drawn into a chicken-or-egg condition, as we mentioned in line 225.

**3. Some PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list**

We had checked those references. However, not all the references come with DOI. But we can assure that all references are indexed in PubMed, either having PMID or PMCID.

**4. The authors did not provide original pictures.**

We had provided an editable figure in a PowerPoint file, submitted as “60858-Figures.ppt”

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our submission. We would be glad to respond to any further questions and comments that you may have.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,  
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