February 21, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Baik et al revised.docx).

Title: Evaluation of factors affecting the success rate of orthodontic mini-implants by survival analysis

Author: Un-Bong Baik, Mohamed Bayome, Kwang-Heung Han, Jae Hyun Park, Min-Ho Jung, Yoon-Ah Kook

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Stomatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 1509

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reply to the comments of the reviewers has been made in "**Bold**" in a point-by-point manner while "red" text is the edited parts in the manuscript:

Reviewer 1:

- **Thank you for your appreciation**

Reviewer 2:

1. This section belongs to the discussion. In the introduction, please give brief information regarding the efficacy of the orthodontic implants.

"Type of mini-implant was suggested as a contributor to the success rate[11, 12]. …… placed by one clinician, but the sample size was relatively small for both reports".

- **This section shows the rationale of performing this study and its difference from pervious studies related to the same topic. Therefore, the authors prefer to keep this section in the introduction.**

2. In the M&M the information regarding patient characteristics. The procedure of the insertion of the mini-implants should be described in detail.

- **More details about the procedures of mini-implant insertion were added to the materials and methods section as follows:** **"**A total number of … technique (30° to the surface of soft tissue and about 20 N.cm torque on the self drilling miniscrew) and were loaded 3 weeks after placement with a similar amount of force.**"**

3. In the statistical analysis please describe the cox model in more detail.

- **The statistical analysis section was edited as follow:** "Prognostic variables … Cox proportional hazard model which is a survival model that relate the time passed before an event happens to one or more covariates (in our study: age, gender, jaw, side, and gingival tissue) that might be associated with that quantity of time."

4. In the results the 95% CI seem to be inappropriate. The inclusion of value 1 is not possible in the odds ratio in the p value is below 0.05.

- **The odd ratio values equaling 1 has been removed.**

5. In table 2, please imply the required p valued for attached gingiva and mucous membrane as well.

The comparison using Chi-square test in table 2 is of the distribution of the 3 types between the mandible and maxilla. The percentages of the 3 areas build up one distribution; therefore, there are no other p values. The presented p-value is not for the MGJ, it is for the whole distribution.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Stomatology*.

Sincerely yours,

Yoon-Ah Kook, D.D.S, Ph.D.

Professor & chairman
Department of Orthodontics
Graduate School of Clinical Dental Science
The Catholic University of Korea