Editor of World Journal of Orthopaedics

2.7.16

Dear Sir,

We enclosed the revised manuscript alongside this letter, which quotes below all the comments from the reviewers and Editor. Next to each comment we have given a response and edited the manuscript accordingly. We do hope that you will now feel it is now ready for publication following the minor requested changes. We have elected to keep the figures, but are happy to remove figures as you see fit for clarity ad brevity.

I am very grateful for your invitation to produce this article for the WJO and I hope it will interest your readership.

Best wishes

J.A.Mathews

Reviewer 1:

Comments: Thank you for your useful comments

1. **"Retrospective analysis of a prospective data base?" –** Yes. Thank you for highlighting this, we have edited this line to make it more clear.

2. **"Am J Orthop (Belle Mead NJ). 2015 Oct;44(10):458-64.Hip Fracture and the Weekend Effect: Does Weekend Admission Affect Patient Outcomes? Boylan MR, Rosenbaum J, Adler A, Naziri Q, Paulino CB[1]" –** Thank you. This paper is mentioned in our discussion section.

3. **"Another interesting variable to compare may be the length of stay and the cost?" –** This would be interesting, especially in the current economic climate, but did not come into the remit of this particular paper.

4. **"Any IRB required?" –** It is a registered national audit, full details in our Institutional Review statement

5. **"Just curious why stop at 2011…..its 2016 now" –** Thank you. This was the original timeframe chosen when the paper was started. Future papers could be considered with longer time frame and follow up.

6. **"Intertroch or neck femur or both?" –** We used the following nationally accepted definition for neck of femur fracture – 'Hip fracture refers to a fracture occurring in the area between the edge of the femoral head and 5 centimetres below the lesser trochanter'

7. **"What data was missing?" -** Missing data included details on where the patient was admitted from, preoperative mobility and cognitive status and adequate follow up.

8. **'Any other inclusion and exclusion criteria?'** No – all patients who fitted our definition of hip fracture during this time frame who had full datasets were included.

9. **"Please briefly discuss what happens once the pt is admitted in your setting as different health systems have different protocol and this journal is quite international? Does he/she need a formal medical clearance or just an anesthesia evaluation. What is the accepted goal for time frame bw admission and surgery in your set up?"** Thank you – all these points are discussed elsewhere in paper.

10. **"How many pts in each group actually had surgery within 36 hrs?" –** Answered in table and lower in results section, table and discussion.

11. **"Why 36 hrs? The literature is inconclusive on this time frame and varies from 24-96 hrs. Is that the protocol in your setting?" –** Thank you. As noted in your Comment 14 – this is explained further along in paper.

12. **"Should be 796 based on your earlier comments**" Thank you for pointing out this typographical error. We have corrected that in text.

13. **"Any specific reason? Is it statistically different?"** Thank you for your query regarding the winter differential. As noted in your comment 16 this is discussed already further down.

14. "**Thnx. This gives the answer to some of my earlier queries**" – Thank you (This section deals with queries from this reviewer's comments 9/10/11)

15. "**There are several studies published on this topic. You may provide a table of all those with their results and conclusions to make your paper stronger" –** Thank you. Another reviewer has actually commented we ought to consider removing figures 'as most of the information is already in the text.' We have taken these views into consideration, and have overall preferred not to add another table to those already in paper for simplicity. All the main, relevant papers are discussed here and referenced for the reader.

16. **"Thnx. That answers a prior query" –** (This section answers query in Comment 13).

17. **"Not statistically different though?" –** correct. Mortality was not statistically different between the seasons.

18. **"Need statistical analysis here with p value" –** Table 2 is purely a descriptive data summary without statistical analysis. The other tables have the detailed results of all statistical analyses.

<u>Reviewer 2</u>

1. **"In the Introduction section, the authors should make an effort to address why they investigate the weekend effect on hip fracture patients" –** Thank you. We have tried to explain this better with our second paragraph of our introduction.

2. **"I'm not quite sure what kind of physiological or pathological phenomenon cause weekend effect in hip fracture patients. Please explain the physiological meaning of weekend effect in hip fracture patients"** - Thank you. We have added a section discussing this in the introduction.

3. **"In Figs of this manuscript the result of statistical analysis should be marked in each figure". –** Thank you the result of statistical analysis is detailed in the legend or figure description.

Reviewer 3

1. **The only thing that would interest me personally, is whether any difference at all could be seen between weekday and weekends (i.e. are the medians different)? For our Dutch practice, a 24 hour treshold is pursued, so that would be interesting as well."** - Thank you – we elected to choose the 36 hour threshold as it fits with UK practice as discussed in the paper.
2. **The discussion is clear and addresses strong and weak study points. Perhaps some of the figures could be discarded, as most of the information is already stated in the main text. Regardless of the minor points, I'd recommend publication** – Thank you.

Editor's comment

1. **"Please offer the full name. Thank you!" –** Uk changed to United Kingdom as requested

2. "Please offer sign pdf files for all statements separately. Thank you!" – I shall upload again as requested

3. **"Any manuscript describing a study (basic research and clinical research) that used biostatistics must include a statement in the Materials and Methods section affirming that the statistical review of the study was performed by a biomedical statistician."** – Thank you. I have added a statement on the front page to this effect, as well as the statement in Methods and Materials.

4. **"The address should be consistent with the institute, and please offer more details of address, such as street or avenue. Thank you!"** Have added street name and matched up accordingly

5. **“Please offer the audio core tip, the requirement are as follows” –** I have created a voice file to upload as per recommendations.
6. **“Please put the reference numbers in square brackets in superscript. Please check across the text.” –** The manuscript has been edited accordingly.