

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 10, 2016

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 28526-edited.doc).

Title: Common Comparative Clinical Study Of Ultrasound-Guided A1 Pulley Release Versus Open Surgical Intervention In The Treatment Of Trigger Finger

Author: Vasileios S Nikolaou, Michael-Alexander Malahias, Maria-Kyriaki Kaseta, Ioannis Sourlas, George C Babis

Name of Journal: World Journal of Orthopedics

ESPS Manuscript NO: 28526

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1 :

This manuscript investigated the usefulness of ultrasonography for the surgical treatment of trigger finger. As the authors mentioned, ultrasonography is not popular for orthopedics, but is gaining attention in the field of rheumatology. The techniques that the authors presented are relatively new, and potentially useful for many readers. To evaluate the procedure with ultrasonography properly, were there any negative aspects as compared with conventional surgical treatment? For example, were there any complications specific to ultrasonography? Were there any complications reported in the literatures?

Authors reply:

We thank the reviewer for the comments. We did not have any refusal from our patients when we described and proposed to them our ultrasound-guided technique instead of the open surgery. This proves that our proposed treatment -as a minimally-invasive- is preferable than the conventional treatment of trigger finger disease amongst our patients. Additionally, there were no negative aspects of the ultrasound-guide release as compared with conventional surgical treatment. We did not noticed any complications specific to the use of ultrasonography. So far literature is extremely limited regarding this relatively new technique, and to the best of our knowledge there are no complications reported.

Reviewer 2:

Dear Editor, We have read through the manuscript and we think that this is a very interesting work. Nevertheless: - The small sample size is a limitation of this study. Please discuss such a point in a dedicated limitation section. - Please perform a post-hoc sample size calculation. - Please revise the

English of the text due to some typos.

Authors reply:

We thank the reviewer for the positive comments. We have added a paragraph at the end of discussion acknowledging the limitations of the study. At the same paragraph we report the results of the post-hoc analysis. Finally, we have run another check to correct typo and grammar errors.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Clinical Cases.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'V. Nikolaou', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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