

30866-ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Reviewer No. 02444715:

interesting paper about MRI of Stress fractures of the proximal medial tibial plateau ,
The paper is well written , but need illustrative diagram (not just MRI pictures) to
explain to the reader more the different types the authors found

>>>Thank you for your critical review. Following your suggestion, we added illustrative
diagram for the different types. Please see Figure 3.

Reviewer No. 02444730:

This is a retrospective study with a small number of patients but it is well presented
and is supported by a detailed discussion.

>>> Thank you for your critical review.

Reviewer No. 2704973:

1. It is a very interesting study. The author found the association between the posterior
slope and the location of stress fracture. I have only a few comments on this study. 1)
The authors classified the location of stress fracture in 3 areas namely AM, PM and P.
Are there any patients or cases who have a stress fracture involved in two areas at the
same time?

>>>There were no patients who had a stress fracture involved in two areas at the same
time.

2. Can the MRI images can be indicated clearly? I see the image the example for PM
type, the fracture line extends from posterior to anterior. I think it is very difficult to
distinguish between PM and AM.

>>>Thank you for your comment. We believe that it is easy to distinguish them.

3. The Kappa analysis can be used to determine the agreement of the raters who
classified the location of fracture.

>>> I think that Kappa analysis is appropriate to evaluate two-state variable (for
example, positive or negative), but intra- inter-class Correlations coefficient is available
for continuous variable.

4. You should test for the normality of the data set before ANOVA analysis. The sample size in the group one is only 3 (very small). Then, I think non parametric may be more appropriate.

>>>As the reviewer suggested, non parametric analysis is suitable for the present study because of the small sample size. So, we changed the statistical analysis from Tukey-Kramer to Kruskal-Wallis.

Reviewer No. 2903665:

The authors present a series of patients with imaging regarding stress fractures of the tibial plateau. Overall the study is descriptive and hypothesis generating as such all conclusions should be tempered by this fact. Additionally a large majority of their methods section is in the passive voice and should be changed. I.e. Apparent joint effusion was not observed in any case. /hould be changed to : we did not identify a joint effusion in any patient.

>>> Thank you for your critical review. As the reviewer suggested, we changed some sentences in the method section from the passive voice to the active voice. (Please see the yellow colored sentences.)