

Response to Reviewer's comments

Article Number: 35898

Article Title: Season Of The Year Influences Infection Rates Following Total Hip Arthroplasty

October 9th, 2017

Dear Respected Editors of World Journal of Orthopedics,

We would like to thank the reviewers and the editors for their comments and suggestions. Please find beneath a comprehensive list of reviewer's comments and revisions. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

The co-authors

Reviewer	Reviewer Comment	Author Response	Manuscript change
00505434	"This is an interesting large database study addresses an unanswered question in the field of total hip arthroplasty. The findings do add new information to the field. The study is well designed and well performed. The data is analyzed adequately. The discussion covered the topic well. The weakness of the study was well discussed."	We thank the reviewer for their kind comment.	n/a.
	Page 4 line 72: change "deep" to "deep infection"	We agree and have changed the document.	Page 5: line 88: "...deep infection..."
	Page 15: add detailed legends to all tables indicating what the table is showing. For example: table 3. Incidence of perprosthetic infections: deep infections? with 6 month after index surgery?	We agree with the reviewer and have changed the document.	Page 19: lines 312-315.
	Page 16: add p values to figures 1 and 2 to show the	We agree with the reviewer and have added	Page 19 and 20: Figure 1-2.

	differences among the groups.	these to the figures.	
03067188	<p>“This is an interesting study investigating the role of season of the year in the rate of infection after total hip arthroplasty in United States. Authors have concluded that winter had the highest incidence of periprosthetic infections while summer had the highest incidence of acute postoperative infections. The topic of the study is original. The manuscript is well-written, methodology is sufficient and results are presented in a suitable fashion. Although this is a retrospective study, the sample size is impressively high.”</p>	We thank the reviewer for their kind comment and detailed analysis of our article.	n/a.
	<p>“1. There are too many (18) unnecessary references in the 1st paragraph of the background.”</p>	We agree with the reviewer and have deleted some references in the first paragraph.	Page 4: Line 53-63.
	<p>“2. It seems controversial that while summer predisposes for acute postoperative infections, the rate of periprosthetic infections is higher in winter. I suggest that an extra paragraph should be added in the discussion section, giving possible explanations for this discrepancy.”</p>	We agree with the reviewer that this is a subject of controversy.	Page 9: Line 201 - 214. “Although our study demonstrates certain differences in infection rates by season of the year and by region, we demonstrated that “superficial infections” have different variations that “deep infections” which although controversial, may be due to various reasons: first, the increased risk of superficial infections in

			<p>the summer may be related to the increased in temperature as has been postulated by Anthony et al. in their large population-based study of the National Inpatient Sample [37]. The authors conducted a comprehensive examination of the NIS and accounted for patient factors, hospital factors and weather variations with their models. Furthermore, the authors state that bacteria can colonize different skin areas at different concentration as temperature varies. Unfortunately, less is known about the seasonality of deep infections. Some authors have demonstrated a seasonal variation in bacteraemia in hospitalized patients, but bacteraemia does not always cause a joint infection and as such limited information can be extracted from this[38]. Thus, with such little evidence available no definite conclusion can be made of why such variation exists.”</p>
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Signature: *Samuel Rosas* **Date:** 10-11-2017