

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Sept 27, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5320-edited AM 27092013.doc).

**Title:** Orthopedic surgery and its complication in systemic lupus erythematosus

**Author:** Anselm Mak

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Orthopedics*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5320

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers. Changes and new additions have been highlighted in blue font in the revised manuscript for easier identification by the Editor and reviewers.

Response to reviewers:

Reviewer 1

The manuscript has been amended to include more evidence. Areas which are based on experience in my centre have also been pointed out. The style has also been polished to meet a higher scientific standard.

Reviewer 2

The standard of English of this manuscript has been addressed and improved.

Reviewer 3

- (1) More about the epidemiology, pathogenesis and treatment of SLE have been added
- (2) For those areas why certain orthopedic conditions are important in patients with SLE which were not adequately described, more description and explanations have been given. However, as an expert in SLE, I still retain the part of carpal tunnel syndrome because it is very common, and is often debilitating in patients with SLE.
- (3) The part of management of osteoporosis has been simplified and restructured based on describing about weight-bearing exercise, adequate vitamin D and calcium intake. Evidence of the dependency of stage of AVN is supported with a reference, plus the description that pain symptom and function have also been taken into consideration in planning treatment for patients with AVN.
- (4) In the section where odds ratios (OR) were described, the comparators (patients with other autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, medium- and large-vessel vasculitides. etc.) have been stated.
- (5) For the tendon transfer section, corrective surgery has been changed to tendon transfer.
- (6) Table 1 about pre-operative assessment has been added in the end of the manuscript (after the references) as suggested.
- (7) XR C-spine is generally not required except in patients with RA/SLE overlap with joint erosion whereby the C-spine may be affected. This part has been added in Table 1.

In addition to response to the reviewers' comments, the rest of the comments and queries accompanying the track-changed manuscript have been answered immediately after each of them in the Comment Box. Also, references have been expanded from 29 to 43 and typesetting has been corrected.

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

Sincerely yours,



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