

## ACCOMPANYING LETTER

(including point-by-point responses to the comments provided by Editors and Reviewers. Responses are provided in bold typescript)

Dear Editors,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled: Arthrodesis of the first metatarsophalangeal joint. The “when and how” (64287). We appreciate all the comments and recommendations that were made which indisputably improved the quality of the manuscript. We have provided the necessary clarifications and we have made all the changes as requested. According to the guidelines of the journal, we submit this accompanying letter that includes a point-by-point response to the Editors’ and Reviewers’ comments. Specifically, this cites the Editors’ or Reviewers’ comment/recommendation and after each comment/question we provide the response by noting the change, including the lines, in the revised manuscript where the changes appear.

We believe that we answered all previously raised concerns. We are looking forward to your response.

Furthermore, minor rephrasing has been made throughout the manuscript in order to resolve all language issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and therefore meet your direct publishing needs.

Reviewer 1 comments:

The manuscript is excellent. However, the authors should add two important conditions that may complicate the outcome, i.e., the diabetes mellitus and uricemia.

**A paragraph regarding the complications that may arise in individuals with diabetes mellitus has been added to the manuscript in lines 247-257: “ A rather common metabolic pathology that may complicate the outcome is diabetes mellitus. Anderson et al, reported that although first MTP arthrodesis is overall an effective and beneficial procedure in patients with diabetes mellitus, those with peripheral neuropathy have an increased risk for mild and moderate complications. 35.5% of the study’s diabetic patients had one or more mild to moderate complications but only a small number of those required revision surgery. 68% of the study’s diabetic patients with peripheral neuropathy had one or more mild to moderate complications (wound dehiscence, infection, delayed or no bone healing). This is significantly higher than the results of non-diabetic patients who had approximately 10% of complications”**

**Concerning gout and first metatarsophalangeal joint arthrodesis, our thorough literature search revealed no reports discussing any potential adverse effects of uricemia on the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> MTP joint arthrodesis.**

Reviewer 2 comments:

This is an interesting and meaningful study, and I recommend accept.

Company Editor in Chief comments:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Orthopedics, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...".

**This has been addressed as we changed figures 5 and 6 to figure 5A and 5B as both of them depict the hemispherical cup and cone reamers, used in order to remove the articular surfaces. The numbering of the rest of the figures has been changed accordingly throughout the manuscript.**

Science Editor comments:

Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a minireview of the arthrodesis of the first metatarsophalangeal joint. The topic is within the scope of the WJO. (1) Classification: Grade B and Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This is an interesting and meaningful study. However, the authors should add two important conditions that may complicate the outcome. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;

**This has been answered above, under the Reviewer #1 comments section.**

The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search.

**All these will be provided and uploaded in 3 separate PDF files and a Word file respectively.**

Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. The topic has not previously been published in the WJO. The corresponding author has not published articles in the

BPG. 5 Issues raised: (1) I found no “Author contribution” section. Please provide the author contributions;

The ‘‘Author contribution’’ section has been included and uploaded in a separate Word file.

I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

**All the figures are original and are courtesy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> author. They have been prepared and arranged in a separate PowerPoint file along with the figure legends.**

I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout; the author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author’s name, with no spaces;

**PMID and DOI numbers have been added to the reference list. PMID number has not been provided only for reference number 39 and DOI number for references number 3,10,15,28. Moreover, all the references are now in Arabic numerals and superscripted in square brackets.**

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