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Response to Reviewers

We thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript and for your feedback. We have addressed your comments as below.

Comment 1 - The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%.

Thank you for your comment. This is a niche area of medicine with very few researchers working in this area and so it is difficult to remove references to the work from our group. A significant amount of the data in this field is derived from the work carried out by our group and removing any of these references would mean removing the vast majority of the manuscript. We would be grateful if this could be taken into consideration.

Comment 2 - The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement

These forms have now been attached.

Comment 3 - I found no "Author contribution" section

This has now been added.

Comment 4 - the authors need to add some figures and tables.

These have now been added.

Please do let us know if there are any other areas that need addressing.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Hesam Ahmadi Nooredinvand

Dr Andrew Poullis