

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma, Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

World Journal of Orthopedics Manuscript

Manuscript NO: 67228

Article Title: The role of coating systems and materials of external fixation pins on the rates of pin tract infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis

On behalf of my co-authors, I am pleased to resend our amended manuscript to the *World Journal of Orthopedics* and would like to extend our gratitude to the reviewers and editors who helped us improve our manuscript, giving the manuscript the necessary attention and providing us with helpful comments and constructive. We reviewed our manuscript and dealt with the comments and doubts provided by the reviewer and science editor, point by point. Below, we list each editor's comment and our response. The revised manuscript was also sent with all changes tracked.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to resend our revised manuscript.

Reviewer comments and answers:

1 - Pro's: Interesting subject with lack of literature in this area. Appropriate language and editing. Good quality of the methodology of the studies that were considered in this analysis. In my opinion there is a need of any relevant data in this specific type of surgery (ExFix).

Authors' response: We thank the reviewer for these thoughtful comments. Indeed, the lack of relevant literature in this field was one of the reasons that led us to produce this work. We seek to maintain the highest methodological quality in the design and production of the study. We fully agree that any information we add to literature is relevant because of the scarcity of literature in this area.

2 - Con's: - Few data regarding the orthopedic conditions that required the use of EF. Work of Pieske (2010) refers only to wrist EF - Heterogeneous results regarding the type of pins (comparison only between two types in each study), diagnosis, localization, follow-up period, and time from surgery to removal of the pins.

Authors' response: As in most of the works selected for our systematic review, the main objective was to evaluate the infection rates at the site of the pins, and compare with different coatings and materials. We believe that the authors were not focused on precisely describing the reasons for external fixator indications. We didn't find studies that compared more than two types of coatings and/or materials. Some diagnoses, location of the external fixator and follow-up time are described in the selected studies, and the heterogeneity did not allow us to perform association comparison. Therefore, we divided them into three subgroups according to the types of pins and coatings. We've added a paragraph commenting on this between lines 265 and 270 of the manuscript.

Science editor issues and answers:

1 - The authors did not provide original pictures. 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.

Authors' response: Thank you for the tip, we did include as requested and it will be submitted as a Power Point file as an attachment.

2 - PMID numbers are missing 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.

Authors' response: We review the bibliographic references entirely according to the journal's guidelines and add the requested information.

3 - The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

Authors' response: The authors would like to thank the reviewer for this query. Article Highlights was added to the end of the main text as requested.

Thank you again for considering this manuscript for your journal.

Kind regards,

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