

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

July 10, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8563-reviewed.doc).

**Title:** Hand Bone Mass in Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Review of the Literature

**Author:** Gamze Kilic, Salih Ozgocmen

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8563

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated. Running title, author contributions and core tip were added.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) This is a paper about hand bone mass using DXA in RA. It is not a systematic review. It is a narrative review. In a systematic review, one should have use more restrictive inclusion criteria (e.g. hand DXA in early RA less than 2 years) and pool the patients from the different papers to do a meta analysis after testing heterogeneity. It is not about bone mass particularly those using DXA (introduction) but exclusively (inclusion criteria). The paper is well written. However, it should be revised to include these modifications

**Response:** We agree with these comments. We had a limited time. A systematic review changed as " A Review of the Literature"

(2)The authors conducted a literature review assessing the hand bone mass in patients with early RA. This manuscript was well written; however this reviewer has several questions/comments that the authors may take into consideration. The following critical points are raised: Discussion: The failure of anti-TNF therapy ??? It has been reported that anti-TNF therapy can reduce inflammation of the joints in patients with RA. Why anti-TNF therapy did not have a significant effect only on hand bone mass?? The authors should explain that. The authors advocated that "different osteoclast-related mechanism ??? Which mechanism? The authors should mention it clearly. Unfortunately, abbreviations used in this manuscript are not consistent and several typing errors were seen

**Response:** Despite anti-TNF treatment having a beneficial effects on generalised bone loss

in most patients with RA, the significant effect of anti TNF on hand bone loss has not been clearly established. We removed this sentence (The failure of anti-TNF therapy to prevent periarticular bone loss may be explained by the fact that different osteoclast-related mechanisms take place in the periarticular and generalize bone loss in RA.). In order to prevent speculation, the sentence changed as 'The mechanism of this failure has not been extensively investigated and is still an open question'. Abbreviations used in manuscript was corrected.


**(3) This review manuscript will be suitable for publication in this Journal**

*Response:* Thank you

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



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