

Dear reviewer!

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript and useful comments.

The followings are our point-by-point responses on comments about wording.

The term «smooth myocytes» is used in scientific literature (for example: Thiriet M. (2013) Smooth Myocytes. In: Tissue Functioning and Remodeling in the Circulatory and Ventilatory Systems. Biomathematical and Biomechanical Modeling of the Circulatory and Ventilatory Systems, vol 5. Springer, New York, NY), but we agree with reviewer that «**smooth muscle cells**» is more correct.

“old” internal elastic membrane in our context means **pre-existing**.

“Numerical density” is the number of structural elements (in our case – profiles of blood vessels) in the unit area of histological section. Volumetric Density is their volume fraction in series of histological sections.

The following are response on review’s comment: «*In the Figure 3 and the text, authors mentioned inflammatory cells, macrophages, lymphocytes, fibroblasts etc in H & E staining. Without IHC staining, how the authors can make discrimination from each other?*»

H & E staining is universal traditional staining which permit identification of almost all cell types.

Even at low microscopic magnification it is not difficult to distinguish dark nuclei of inflammatory cells among resident cells. At higher magnification lymphocytes appear as rounded cells (diameter 8-12 μm) with rounded nuclei and clear cytoplasmic border. The macrophages are bigger than lymphocytes (diameter 16-20 μm), they have dark cytoplasm (sometimes vacuolated), very often they have kidney shaped nuclei. Clusters of fibroblasts - spindled or stellate cells typically with oval nuclei - locate in a background of collagenous bands. Immunohistochemistry permit identification of dozens subtypes of lymphocytes and macrophages. IHC analysis of inflammatory cells in vessels of Dupuytren’s contracture patients has been already done by other authors (for example #6 cited in our manuscript and many others). We didn’t aim to repeat these results because present research has another purpose.

Blue text was incorporated in the manuscript.

And again much thanks for review.