

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 86401

**Title:** Self-management of osteoarthritis while waiting for total knee arthroplasty during the COVID-19 pandemic among older Malaysians

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04643921

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** Malaysia

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-06-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-07-17 07:56

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-07-26 13:37

**Review time:** 9 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript entitled “Self-Management of Osteoarthritis while Waiting for Total Knee Arthroplasty during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of Individuals 50 Years and Older at an Urban Tertiary Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.” My comments are as follows:

- 1) It is not clear to me why the authors fulfil the ARRIVE guidelines format, which is for studies involving animals. Here, the authors did not use animals. This part should be deleted.
- 2) In the introduction, the authors could briefly explain that OA is whole joint disease, involving all joint tissues.
- 3) It could be also added that severe knee OA is associated with pain.
- 4) Section 2.1: exclusion criteria are not reported.
- 5) Figure 1: decimal point should be used instead of decimal comma. Description of Y-axis should be added.
- 6) in the results, the authors reported “In physical function, shopping appeared to be the most challenging task with 68% unable to perform, followed by food preparation (38%) and laundry (22%) respectively”. Is this part the physical function, components of Lawton?
- 7) “Additionally, patient education via remote telecommunication consultation were also recommended”. English should be checked.
- 8) The authors should discuss that they did not find a significant association between



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waiting time for TKA surgery and poor physical function or frailty. 8) “This study emphasized that older patients aged 50 and above were disproportionately impacted by the postponement of TKA procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.” Why “disproportionately”? 9) conclusions should be revised reporting that the authors did not find a significant association between waiting time for TKA surgery and poor physical function or frailty.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05089997

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** Doctor, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Consultant Physician-Scientist, Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Romania

**Author's Country/Territory:** Malaysia

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Self-Management of Osteoarthritis while Waiting for Total Knee Arthroplasty during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of Individuals 50 Years and Older at an Urban Tertiary Hospital in Kuala Lumpur Osteoarthritis is a debilitating disease with a significantly high prevalence among the population, causing a low quality of life to those affected by it. Postponing total knee arthroplasty, especially in the elderly, can determine a high impact on the mental constitution of the patient, among other elements such as pain and functional status. There is a need for greater medical care for patients with osteoarthritis and acknowledging the severe impact of such a disease on the overall status of the patient. This study is relevant to the clinician and to the optimization of the management of elderly patients in need of TKE, with emphasis on the ideal time for surgery and avoiding postponement. The medical system should be prepared for the treatment of these patients in case of another unfortunate global event such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires an evaluated and accepted protocol, as is stated in the manuscript. Overall, the study is well organized, has a high level of written clarity, while the ideas are logical and succinct. There are a couple of points that should be



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considered to potentially increase the accuracy and coherence of the paper. 1. Please consider further explaining the impact of physical exercises on pain and functional status among your patients, as elderly individuals are often suffering of a multitude of comorbidities, and many times, pharmacologic treatment is not available to them. 2. In the Results section, please take into account being more specific in naming the type of hypertension. 3. In the Discussions section, please consider using “undertook self-management” instead of “did take self-management”. 4. In the Discussion section, line 9 – please use “was significantly poor” instead of “had significantly poor”. 5. In the Discussion section, line 15, the meaning of “positive for COVID-19 after a certain period of time, such as seven weeks or more” is not sufficiently clear. Consider using “if the patient priorly tested positive for COVID-19, with a certain period of time having passed, such as seven weeks or more.” After analyzing the manuscript, it can be considered for publication after making these minor changes.