

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Diabetes

**Manuscript NO:** 38075

**Title:** Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Demonstrate Proprioceptive Deficit in the Knee

**Reviewer's code:** 01805500

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui

**Date sent for review:** 2018-01-30

**Date reviewed:** 2018-01-30

**Review time:** 11 Hours

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|   |   | BPG Search:                                    |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Some typos should be amended, i.e., comparted. Some pieces of information about the app in iPod are advisable. A limitation to study about the small sample size of diabetics should be emphasised taking into account the high prevalence of T2DM and its neuropathy.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Diabetes  
**Manuscript NO:** 38075  
**Title:** Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Demonstrate Proprioceptive Deficit in the Knee  
**Reviewer's code:** 00504150  
**Reviewer's country:** Canada  
**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui  
**Date sent for review:** 2018-01-30  
**Date reviewed:** 2018-02-01  
**Review time:** 2 Days

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION  | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing     | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing           | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|   |  | BPG Search:                                    |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled, "Patients with type 2 diabetes demonstrate proprioceptive deficit in the knee", by Ettinger and colleagues is well written and easy to read. My main concern is that this work is not better suited for a general diabetes journal. There are several minor points that the authors should consider in order to improve the manuscript. (1) The authors describe the results of diabetic neuropathy symptom score in the Materials and Methods section. These should go to the Results section as has been done in the Abstract. (2) In the abstract the authors use an abbreviation T2D whereas T2DM is employed in the main text. Consistency should be considered. (3) Also the authors use an abbreviation ADL, which is not necessary because it is used only once in the abstract. (4) Please spell out ACL. (5) The authors state "...and significant differences between levels of target angle were also observed ( $p < 0.001$ ).". However, Table 2 indicates p value of  $p = 0.001$ . (6) In legend of Figure 3, it states that asterisks

denote significant differences. However, there are no asterisks in Figure 3. The same issue applies to Table 2. (7) The bar graphs, so called the "dynamite plots", in Figures 2 and 3 are less than ideal. Given the small N, parallel strip plots could be used - with a dot for each subject so that the distribution of the values can be recognized. For more on dynamite plots see <http://biostat.mc.vanderbilt.edu/wiki/pub/Main/TatsukiRcode/Poster3.pdf>

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Diabetes  
**Manuscript NO:** 38075  
**Title:** Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Demonstrate Proprioceptive Deficit in the Knee  
**Reviewer's code:** 00506397  
**Reviewer's country:** United States  
**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui  
**Date sent for review:** 2018-01-30  
**Date reviewed:** 2018-02-02  
**Review time:** 3 Days

| CLASSIFICATION   | LANGUAGE EVALUATION   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                           | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing                      | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor                 |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                                      | BPG Search:                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision     |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors report the results of a study aimed at assessing if patients with and without Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) differ in their proprioceptive abilities. A total of 46 patients were asked to perform leg extensions to positions of 15°, 30°, 45, 60° degrees of elevation in the sagittal plane. The accuracy and precision in carrying out this task revealed that the diabetic group had significantly greater deficits in lower limb localization and were associated with higher diabetic neuropathy scores in this cohort. Although this small study is reasonable and its findings support authors' conclusion that "diabetic neuropathy may be associated with de-afferentation .....that may help explain the declining balance function in T2DM patients", this manuscript needs attention with respect to proper use of English expression and grammar. Authors will need to break and re-write several sentences (throughout the manuscript) to clarify their intended meaning. Some examples of poor expression and grammar are recorded below: 1.



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"However, from a recent review, discrepancies in the literature are reported with respect to the depth of pain perception threshold, which raise questions as to the extent of tissue disruption in DPN, which the authors demand further study is needed." 2. "Furthermore, T2D generally exhibit worse balance during activity than non-diabetics, which may account for the high frequency of ER visits due to falls." Don't you mean patients with T2DM? 3. "Knee proprioception has been commonly measured using joint position sense tasks for a number of populations including ACL, knee arthroplasty and osteoarthritis to name a few". Do you mean populations of patients with ACL, knee arthroplasty and osteoarthritis, to name a few? 4. "In studies examining laboratory based induced ischemia; afferent nerves are more commonly affected than efferent nerves due to the greater size and oxidative demands of the afferent nerve." Need to write in complete sentences. 5. "Both ankle and hip strength and proprioceptive thresholds were successfully used a predictor variables to determine the number of falls in this population." Why use of "a" for plural (variables)? 6. "Although DPN has been historically characterized as superficial loss of nociception in the feet involving A-delta and C-fibers, others have suggested factors such as age can cause afferents in adjacent subcutaneous tissues which may include A-alpha proprioceptive nerve fibers in muscle to become disrupted as well." Break this run-on sentence into 2 or 3 to clearly express what you mean. 7. "We hypothesize that patients with T2D will have greater proprioceptive errors than healthy controls, further we hypothesize that patients will not respond with linear improvements to proprioception by target angle of elevation." Again, need to break this sentence to say what you mean more accurately. 8. "All JPS data were downloaded from the iPod using iTunes software. Three dimensional accelerometer data were converted into angular data in a custom Labview program following equations previously validated." Need to hyphenate 3-D and expand these sentences to express them more precisely (using previously validated equations?). 9. Our data suggest that our hypothesis were supported for accuracy but not for precision (Figures 2 and 3). Need to use plural since you started with tow hypotheses!!!! 10. "We previously reported that patients with pain syndromes have large proprioceptive deficits to both accuracy and precision to a degree that are consistent with the present study." Should you not say "in both accuracy and precison"? What does "to a degree" mean? 11. "Demographic data from the present study indicate that 60% of the diabetic participants reported some discomfort in the lower extremity during the proprioceptive task; however, we did not separate participants into groups based on pain." I could not understand by what you meant by demographic data. I could not find mention of "demographic data acquisition" anywhere in the Methods. 12. "Together these findings help to explain heightened instability and fall risk in this population, furthermore, the greater errors at smaller angles of elevation could help to explain data on diabetics and



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small obstacle clearance, which likely occur at similar angles.” Need to break this run-on sentence into more sentences to express more clearly what you mean. 13. “Future studies should examine the extent of which joint position sense disruption can be measured in patients with diabetes and within the various stages of DPN in order to establish a new method for diagnosis, disease and/or treatment progression.” This poorly expressed thought needs revision. 14. “For each of our hypothesis and corresponding results will be discussed below.” Express it more clearly i.e. you have two separate hypotheses and you obtained results that particularly address to each of these hypotheses. 15. “Regardless, DPN is the most frequent sequel of diabetes mellitus” Do you mean to say “sequela”? 16. Use consistent spelling of C-fiber not C-fibre throughout the manuscript. 17. When citing data “figures and tables” in the Text, cite them uniformly as “Figure 1, Figure 2 and Tables etc. 18. “Funding for this project was partially provided by the Murdock Charitable Trust. “This comes under the heading of Acknowledgements.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Diabetes  
**Manuscript NO:** 38075  
**Title:** Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Demonstrate Proprioceptive Deficit in the Knee  
**Reviewer's code:** 00504406  
**Reviewer's country:** Greece  
**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui  
**Date sent for review:** 2018-01-30  
**Date reviewed:** 2018-02-04  
**Review time:** 5 Days

| CLASSIFICATION   | LANGUAGE EVALUATION  | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing     | Google Search:                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing           | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor                 |  | BPG Search:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

no comments

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Diabetes  
**Manuscript NO:** 38075  
**Title:** Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Demonstrate Proprioceptive Deficit in the Knee  
**Reviewer's code:** 03699916  
**Reviewer's country:** Denmark  
**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui  
**Date sent for review:** 2018-01-30  
**Date reviewed:** 2018-02-05  
**Review time:** 6 Days

| CLASSIFICATION   | LANGUAGE EVALUATION   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor                 |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision     |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | BPG Search:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a small sample and a good comparison study about proprioceptive discrepancies as measured by a joint position sense (JPS) task in the lower extremity between persons with and without T2DM. Authors demonstrated that deficits in lower limb localization and greater diabetic neuropathy scores have been identified patients with T2DM. These findings may be associated with deafferentation as peripheral neuropathy is a common complication with the disease. The data obtained from the present study will be helpful to explain the declining balance function in the patients with T2DM. Major comment: Authors emphasize the effect of peripheral nerve disorders in the lower extremity on proprioceptive discrepancies in the present study. It is well known that the diabetes also affect central nerve system. Does the disorders of central nerve system in T2D also affect the accuracy and precision of joint position sense in the lower extremity? However the authors can differentiate the effects of central



nerve system (brain) and peripheral nerve system (the lower extremity) on proprioceptive discrepancies in the present study? Minor comment: The first paragraph in the Discussion is suggested to delete as this has been mentioned in the end of Introduction.