

Catania, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a revised version of the paper entitled “Growing pains: what do we know about etiology?”, by myself, Andrea Vescio, Fabiana Valenti, Marco Sapienza, Giuseppe Sessa, Gianluca Testa, to be submitted to World Journal of Orthopaedics.

We have performed a revision of the entire work, thanks to the indications of the editorial staff. The revision has been discussed and approved by all the authors. Furthermore the paper has been prepared in accordance with World Journal of Orthopaedics style requirements.

Thank you for your comments on the present article.

We have modified the article, following your valuable suggestions. All suggested changes and related answers are contained in Word track change of the manuscript file.

### **Reviewer #1**

Overall, it is a very good manuscript reviewing the majority of the current literature information concerning “Growing pains in children”. However, I would suggest the following corrections:

**Q1)** I would prefer the “Anatomical factors”, “Reduce bone strength” and “Vitamin D deficiency” paragraphs to be in a row, because there is an increased association between them.

**A1)** As you suggested, the three paragraphs were united in one. The references and the tables were updates.

**Q2)** The results concerning the association between genu valgum and GP development (Kaspiris et al 2016) must be removed of the “Associations” paragraph and relocated in “Anatomic factors” sections. Moreover, the authors should compare these observations with Evans and Scutter results. Additionally, the observation of Lee al (Ann. Rehabil. Med. 2015, 39, 285–293) that the application of customized foot orthoses in children with genu valgum deformities minimizes the GP frequency, must be referred.

**A2)** All the requested modifies were added

**Q3)** It is true that current results show an increased correlation between GP and Vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency. It would be necessary to be referred by the authors a general mechanism concerning Vitamin D and bone or muscle ache based on current information at the discussion section.

**A3)** Main theories were reported

**Q4)** Does the combination of the results about Vitamin D deficiency, low BMD and skeletal deformities could reflect a “Bone metabolic basis” of the disease?? As the journal is Orthopaedic orientated, I would expect the authors to focus more on the above information at the Discussion paragraph.

**A4)** Further information about Vitamin D deficiency, low BMD and skeletal deformities were added.

**Q5)** The manuscript should be proofread by a native English speaker.

**A5)** The manuscript was proofread by a native English speaker. Attached you will find the editing certificate.

Sincerely yours,

Vito Pavone

Associate Professor

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