

Subject: World Journal of Orthopedics Manuscript NO: 39639 – Manuscript revision

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication. Please find below our answers to the reviewers' comments and to the steps outlined in this email. All our answers are in yellow and the revised manuscript has been submitted with track changes to make any changes obvious.

Reviewer comments:

Reviewer 1

a well written paper about Risk factors for loss of reduction with volar locking distal radius plates. It presents a multicenter study with good number of patients. As the authors explained at the end , the minor loss of reduction does not necessarily correlate with functional outcome On the other hand, can the authors give us an exact size of the zone in which they recommend screw placement? the word subcondral can be vague in such situation

We thank reviewer 1 for the kind comments. We changed the manuscript to describe the optimal area of screw placement (page 7, under the heading "data collection": The subchondral line was defined as the dense area which denotes the articular surface. The optimal most distal screw placement was defined as the area just proximal to the subchondral line without breaching it)

Reviewer 2

This study measured the distance of the distal locking screws to the joint line immediately postoperatively and then measured radial shortening after six to eight weeks using the change in ulnar variance in 250 cases. Multivariate linear regression analysis showed that there was a significant linear association between the distance of the screws from the joint line and radial

shortening. Authors concluded that distal locking screws should be placed as close as possible to the subchondral joint line to prevent postoperative loss of reduction. Generally this is an interesting study. It is very clinically significant. The data supported the conclusion. My only concern is, did the authors evaluate how the fracture type, such as 23-C2 articular simple, metaphyseal multifragmentary and /or 23-C3 articular multifragmentary, affects the loss of reduction with volar locking distal radius plates?

We thank reviewer 2 for the kind comments. The statistical analysis showed that loss of reduction is independent of the severity of the fracture, see Table 1 and results section

Dear Dr. Davies,

First of all, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the World Journal of Orthopedics.

Secondly, please be sure to follow all the steps below to modify the proposed manuscript.

**Step 1: Verify the accuracy of general information for your manuscript**

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

**Manuscript NO.:** 39639

**Column:** Retrospective Study

**Title:** Screw placement is everything: Risk factors for loss of reduction with volar locking distal radius plates

**Authors:** Herwig Drobetz, Alyce Black, Jonathan Davies, Petra Buttner and Clare Heal

We changed the author order – please see manuscript. CH is now the last author.

**Correspondence to:** Herwig Drobetz, MD, PhD, Professor, Director of Orthopaedics, Orthopaedics, Herwig Drobetz, MD, PhD, FAOrthA, FRACS, Orthopaedic Department, Mackay Base Hospital, James Cook University School of Medicine and Dentistry, Mackay Hospital and Health District, Bridge Road, Mackay, QLD 4740, Australia. [herwig.dro@gmail.com](mailto:herwig.dro@gmail.com), Bridge Road, Mackay 4740, QLD, Australia. [herwig.dro@gmail.com](mailto:herwig.dro@gmail.com)

**Reviewer code:** 02444715, and 03518978

**First decision:** 2018-05-18

**Science editor:** Jin-Lei Wang

### **Step 2: Manuscript revision deadline**

The review of your manuscript, which you submitted to the World Journal of Orthopedics, is now completed and the first decision for publication is available. We request that you submit your revision in no more than 7 days. If you do not request an extension of this deadline or we do not hear from you about this article within 4 weeks following this first decision, we will assume that you have WITHDRAWN the manuscript from consideration for publication in the World Journal of Orthopedics. If you wish to submit the manuscript to another journal within the 4-week time frame, you must first officially withdraw your manuscript from consideration by the World Journal of Orthopedics.

### **Step 3: Login and download the revision-related documents**

To access the reviewers' comments, please login to the F6Publishing system at <http://www.f6publishing.com> by entering your registered E-mail and password. After clicking on the "Author Login" button, please click on the "Manuscripts Needing Revision" under the "Revisions" heading to find your manuscript that needs revision. You can then download the "Peer-Review Report" by clicking on the "Files Download" button in front of the manuscript number. Clicking on the "Handle" button allows you to choose to revise this manuscript or not.

If you choose not to revise your manuscript, please click on the "Decline" button, and the manuscript will be WITHDRAWN.

Please download the manuscript file edited by the editor, located in the "Edited Manuscript by Editor" column. You will find the editor's suggestions that have been added using the Track Changes function in the edited manuscript file. All of the revisions that you make to the revised manuscript should be cited in the response letter and highlighted in the updated version of the manuscript.

All changes are visible via track changes function

Please sign the Copyright License Agreement form, which can be downloaded from the F6Publishing system, in the "Files Download" area.

attached

#### **Step 4: Revise the manuscript**

Please update your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision and the Format for Manuscript Revision for your specific manuscript type:

'Retrospective Study'. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

#### **Step 5: Submit the revised manuscript and all related documents**

When you are ready to resubmit your revised paper and all required accompanying documents (listed below), you can begin the uploading process *via* the F6Publishing system.

(1) 39639-Revised Manuscript: uploaded

(2) 39639-Answering Reviewers: uploaded

(3) 39639-Audio Core Tip: uploaded

(4) 39639-Biostatistics Review Certificate: uploaded

(5) 39639-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form: uploaded

- (6) 39639-Copyright License Agreement: uploaded
- (7) 39639-Approved Grant Application Form(s) or Funding Agency Copy of any Approval Document(s): n/a – no grants were received
- (8) 39639-Signed Informed Consent Form(s) or Document(s): n/a, chart review and radiograph review only
- (9) 39639-Institutional Review Board Approval Form or Document: uploaded
- (10) 39639-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate: n/a, all authors are native english speakers
- (11) 39639-Video: n/a
- (12) 39639-Image File uploaded
- (13) 39639-Supplementary Material: n/a

As your manuscript type is Retrospective Study, you are required to provide documents listed above, according to the Committee on Publication Ethics. For the ethics document(s) required for different manuscript types, please visit: <https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287>.

If the authors are non-native speakers of English, then the 'Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate' must be provided as well. For guidelines on the Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate, please visit: <https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

If authors cannot provide all of the documents required, the editorial office will not be able to accept the manuscript for publication.

**Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication**

**Herwig Drobetz, 25 June 2018**