

January 29, 2018

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Dear World Journal of Orthopedics Editor,

We appreciate the time taken by you and the reviewers to review and improve the manuscript. This revised manuscript addresses all reviewer comments and queries. It also contains the required grant information document and audio clip of the core tip to accompany the online submission.

Warmly,

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Below are our responses to each query or comment.

Reviewer Comments/Queries:	Our responses:
Reviewer 1 (02444730)	
<p>This is a clinical study concerning the minimum clinically important difference (MCID) using subjective clinical scores in patients with hip and knee disorders. It was found that a large range of potential MCIDs for these scores (PROMIS® PF, HOOS JR, and KOOS JR).</p> <p>This is an interesting study including a large number of patients, but with some limitations (described by the authors). This study is referred to these (new) scores only. It would be very useful if the authors have included and other score/s that have been already used for many years for patients with hip and knee disorders.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your comment and suggestion. We have now incorporated literature on other existing hip and knee instruments into our introduction section.</p> <p>Below is the addition to our manuscript:</p> <p>“Other PROs have been developed that are specific to the domain of joint function and it is helpful to consider the measurement properties of these newer instruments side by side. The knee injury and osteoarthritis outcome score for joint reconstruction (KOOS JR) and the hip and disability osteoarthritis score for joint reconstruction (HOOS JR) are two joint specific instruments recently introduced in the arthroplasty arena ^[17-20]. Both instruments have been approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for use in joint replacement registries ^[21-24]. The HOOS and KOOS were selected given their use in joint replacement registries in the United States, though other valid measures such as the Oxford hip or knee score are more common in European registries and the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) has a longer-term use for more general assessments of osteoarthritis ^[21]. Prior research has demonstrated that the HOOS and KOOS</p>

	measures are sensitive to change ^[25] ; however, we are unaware of any studies that develop MCIDs for these instruments ^[26] .”
Reviewer 2 (02444795)	
A well presented, clinically relevant paper.	We appreciate your comment and taking the time to review our manuscript.
Query 1	
Please provide the grant application form(s). If you can't provide it, please delete this part	We have uploaded this document to the online submission.
Query 2	
Please provide the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s). For manuscripts supported by various foundations (i.e., charitable, not-for-profit organizations), the authors should provide a copy of the full approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s), consisting of the information section and body section in PDF format. The approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s) will be released online together with the manuscript in order for readers to obtain more information about the study and to increase the likelihood of subsequent citation.	Thank you. We have uploaded this document to the online submission.
Query 3	
In order to attract readers to read your full-text article, we request that the first author make an audio file describing your final core tip. This audio file will be published online, along with your article. Please submit audio files according to the following specifications: Acceptable file formats:.mp3, .wav, or .aiff Maximum file size:10 MB To achieve the best quality, when saving audio files as an mp3, use a setting of 256 kbps or higher for stereo or 128 kbps or higher for mono. Sampling rate should be either 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz. Bit rate should be either 16 or 24 bit. To avoid audible clipping noise, please make sure that audio levels do not exceed 0 dBFS.	We have recorded the audio in .mp3 format and uploaded this to the online submission. Thank you.
Query 4	
Please show table 2 in main text.	Thank you for your comment. We have revised our manuscript and uploaded table 2 into the main text.
Query 5	
Guidelines for writing and formatting ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS—Please do not copy	We have now incorporated article highlights at the end our revised manuscript.

from main text.	
Query 6	
Research conclusions— Please write in a paragraph, thank you	This section is written in a paragraph and is included in our revised manuscript. Thank you.
Query 7	
Research perspective— Please write in a paragraph, thank you	The research perspective is written in a paragraph and is in our revised manuscript now.