

Body: 23-Dec-2016

Dear Dr. Thorlund:

Manuscript ID BMJ.2016.035734.R1 entitled "Patient-reported outcomes in patients undergoing arthroscopic partial meniscectomy for traumatic or degenerative meniscal tears: A comparative prospective cohort study" which you submitted to BMJ,

Thank you for sending us your paper. We are pleased to say that we would like to publish it in the BMJ as long you are willing and able to revise your paper as explained below in the reviewer 2's comments. We are provisionally offering acceptance but will make the final decision when we see the revised version. The comments from the reviewers and general requirements for submission are available at the end of this letter.

We are looking forward to reading the revised manuscript and, we hope, making a final acceptance decision.

Please note that the BMJ might choose to shorten content or replace or re-size images for the print issue.

*** PLEASE NOTE: This is a two-step process. After clicking on the link, you will be directed to a webpage to confirm. ***

https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bmj?URL_MASK=893515d0f53f45c0a363a09920217814

Yours sincerely

Tiago Villanueva
Assistant Editor
tvillanueva@bmj.com,

.

**** Comments from the external peer reviewers****

REFeree COMMENTS

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:

Comments:

My initial comments were minor - only suggestions for edits - and the authors have provided very satisfactory responses/revised the manuscript accordingly. I have no further comments.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Teppo Järvinen

Job Title: Professor

Institution: University of Helsinki

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: Yes

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: Yes

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may

in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests (please see BMJ policy) please declare them here: This particular topic is one of my key research interests and I have received quite a bit of research funding (Unrestricted/academic research grant) for studying the topic. I have also served as a speaker in an AMGEN-sponsored osteoporosis symposium (unrelated topic), but donated this honorarium to the AllTrials campaign.

Reviewer: 2

Recommendation:

Comments:

The manuscript has improved markedly since my previous review. It is now much easier to read and to follow. The definitions are much clearer and are consistent throughout. I now only have minor comments.

1. The use of KOOS4 instead of each individual subscale is reasonable, but the reason for using only 4 of the 5 subscales (ie, not including the ADL subscale) is not clear. Is this (ADL) subscale not sensitive in patients with meniscal pathology?
2. Figures 1 and 2 are not visible on the PDF supplied (appear as black squares)
3. A sensitivity analysis using the definition of TT and DT from the protocol is still missing. I think it is important to include an analysis based on the original definition in order to address criticism of selective reporting bias.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Ian Harris

Job Title: Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Institution: University of NSW

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests (please see BMJ policy) please declare them here: Nil

Reviewer: 3

Recommendation:

Comments:

I am happy with the author responses.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Angela Wade

Job Title: Professor of Medical Statistics

Institution: UCL Institute of Child Health

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests (please see BMJ policy) please declare them here: None

****Information for submitting a revision****

Deadline: Your revised manuscript should be returned within one month.

How to submit your revised article: Log into <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bmj> and enter your Author Center, where you will find your manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions." Under "Actions," click on "Create a Revision." Your manuscript number has been appended to denote a revision.

You will be unable to make your revisions on the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer. Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can upload it and submit it through your Author Center. When submitting your revised manuscript, you will be able to respond to the comments made by the reviewer(s) and Committee in the space provided. You can use this space to document any changes you make to the original manuscript and to explain your responses. In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewer(s). As well as submitting your revised manuscript, we also require a copy of the manuscript with changes highlighted. Please upload this as a supplemental file with file designation 'Revised Manuscript Marked copy'. Your original files are available to you when you upload your revised manuscript. Please delete any redundant files before completing the submission.

When you revise and return your manuscript, please take note of all the following points about revising your article. Even if an item, such as a competing interests statement, was present and correct in the original draft of your paper, please check that it has not slipped out during revision. Please include these items in the revised manuscript to comply with BMJ style (see: <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-submission/article-requirements> and <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists>).

Items to include with your revision (see <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-types/research>):

1. What this paper adds/what is already known box (as described at <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/types-of-article/research>)
2. Name of the ethics committee or IRB, ID# of the approval, and a statement that participants gave informed consent before taking part. If ethics committee approval was not required, please state so clearly and explain the reasons why (see <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/editorial-policies/guidelines>.)
3. Patient confidentiality forms when appropriate (see http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/editorial-policies/copy_of_patient-confidentiality).
4. Competing interests statement (see <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/editorial-policies/competing-interests>)
5. Contributorship statement+ guarantor (see <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/article-submission/authorship-contributorship>)
6. Transparency statement: (see <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/transparency-policy>)

7. Copyright statement/licence for publication (see <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/copyright-open-access-and-permission-reuse>)

8. Data sharing statement (see <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-types/research>)

9. Funding statement and statement of the independence of researchers from funders (see <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/article-submission/article-requirements>).

10. Patient involvement statement (see <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/article-types/research>).

11. Please ensure the paper complies with The BMJ's style, as detailed below:

a. Title: this should include the study design eg "systematic review and meta-analysis."

b. Abstract: Please include a structured abstract with key summary statistics, as explained below (also see <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/types-of-article/research>). For every clinical trial - and for any other registered study- the last line of the abstract must list the study registration number and the name of the register.

c. Introduction: This should cover no more than three paragraphs, focusing on the research question and your reasons for asking it now.

d. Methods: For an intervention study the manuscript should include enough information about the intervention(s) and comparator(s) (even if this was usual care) for reviewers and readers to understand fully what happened in the study. To enable readers to replicate your work or implement the interventions in their own practice please also provide (uploaded as one or more supplemental files, including video and audio files where appropriate) any relevant detailed descriptions and materials. Alternatively, please provide in the manuscript urls to openly accessible websites where these materials can be found.

e. Results: Please report statistical aspects of the study in line with the Statistical Analyses and Methods in the Published Literature (SAMPL) guidelines <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/sampl/>. Please include in the results section of your structured abstract (and, of course, in the article's results section) the following terms, as appropriate:

i. For a clinical trial: Absolute event rates among experimental and control groups; RRR (relative risk reduction); NNT or NNH (number needed to treat or harm) and its 95% confidence interval (or, if the trial is of a public health intervention, number helped per 1000 or 100,000.)

ii. For a cohort study: Absolute event rates over time (eg 10 years) among exposed and non-exposed groups; RRR (relative risk reduction.)

iii. For a case control study: OR (odds ratio) for strength of association between exposure and outcome.

iv. For a study of a diagnostic test: Sensitivity and specificity; PPV and NPV (positive and negative predictive values.)

v. For a systematic review and/or meta-analysis: Point estimates and confidence intervals for the main results; one or more references for the statistical package(s) used to analyse the data, eg RevMan for a systematic review. There is no need to provide a formal reference for a very widely used package that will be very familiar to general readers eg STATA, but please say in the text which version you used. For articles that include explicit statements of the quality of evidence and strength of recommendations, we prefer reporting using the GRADE system.

f. Discussion: To minimise the risk of careful explanation giving way to polemic, please write the discussion section of your paper in a structured way. Please follow this structure: i) statement of principal findings of the study; ii) strengths and weaknesses of the study; iii) strengths and weaknesses in relation to other studies, discussing important differences in results; iv) what your study adds (whenever possible please discuss your study in the light of relevant systematic reviews and meta-analyses); v) meaning of the study, including possible explanations and implications for clinicians and policymakers and other researchers; vi) how your study could promote better decisions; vi) unanswered questions and future research

g. Footnotes and statements

Online and print publication: All original research in The BMJ is published with open access. Our open access policy is detailed here: <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/copyright-open-access-and-permission-reuse>. The full text online version of your article, if accepted after revision, will be the indexed citable version (full details are at <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/about-bmj/the-bmjs-publishing-model>). The print and iPad BMJ will carry an abridged version of your article. This abridged version of the article is essentially an evidence abstract called BMJ pico, which we would like you to write using the template downloadable at <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/bmj-pico>. Publication of research on bmj.com is definitive and is not simply interim "epublication ahead of print", so if you do not wish to abridge your article using BMJ pico, you will be able to opt for online only publication. Please let us know if you would prefer this option. If your article is accepted we will invite you to submit a video abstract, lasting no longer than 4 minutes, and based on the information in your paper's

BMJ pico evidence abstract. The content and focus of the video must relate directly to the study that has been accepted for publication by The BMJ, and should not stray beyond the data.

Date Sent: 23-Dec-2016