



## Letter to the Editor

## Reply to the letter by Liufu et al



Dear Editor,

We appreciate the pertinent comment made by Liufu et al. regarding our study on the long-term use of medial arch support insole for pediatric flexible flat foot (PFFF).

The reviewers commented on the retrospective design of the study. Randomization for the selection of patients and allocation of treatment method could not be performed as the decision regarding insole application was taken by the parents of the patients. However, our study was designed as a non-randomized clinical trial (a prospective comparative study).

The reviewers also questioned the management of unilateral PFFF. Among 18 patients from the group that used medial arch support insole, 2 showed unilateral PFFF. For those patients, we applied the same insole design without medial arch support on the normal side.

Third, we attempted to determine the resting calcaneal stance position (RCSP) immediately after the insole was applied for the first time. With careful examination, we confirmed that RCSP improved with the use of a shoe with an inserted insole in all cases before the patients began wearing them.

Finally, the reviewers stressed the need for investigation of the body mass index (BMI). We agree with their opinion that the research would have been more comprehensible if we had considered BMI along with the other demographic parameters. In our study, the mean BMIs at the first visit to the clinic were 17.9 (range, 16.1–23.4) and 18.4 (range, 16.3–23.1) in groups 1 and 2, respectively. However, it is unclear if higher BMI affects medial longitudinal arch formation in childhood [1,2]. Furthermore, as most previous studies that focused on the relationship between BMI and PFFF were epidemiologic studies [3–5], we were unable to affirm peremptorily if the treatment outcome would be influenced by BMI.

Once again, we would like to thank Liufu et al for their interest in our study.

Kind Regards,

## Declaration of interest statement

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

## Acknowledgements

None.

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J.Y. Choi  
D.J. Lee  
S.J. Kim  
J.S. Suh\*

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Inje University Ilsan Paik Hospital, Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: [osddr8151@paik.ac.kr](mailto:osddr8151@paik.ac.kr) (J. Choi),  
[dong850921@hanmail.net](mailto:dong850921@hanmail.net) (D. Lee),  
[i9785@paik.ac.kr](mailto:i9785@paik.ac.kr) (S. Kim),  
[sjs0506@paik.ac.kr](mailto:sjs0506@paik.ac.kr) (J. Suh).

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