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EDITOR'S INVITED COMMENTARY

Invited Response on: Managing Pathologic Scars by Injecting Auto-crosslinked Hyaluronic Acid: A Preliminary Prospective Clinical Study

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Sir:

We are writing in response to the comments related to our report "Managing pathologic scars by injecting auto-crosslinked hyaluronic acid: a preliminary prospective clinical study" [1]. We thank the authors for their interest in our work, and we feel that their letter nicely complements our article. The aim of our study was to assess the effective and safe treatment of pathological scar from burns, trauma or iatrogenic causes with an auto-crosslinked hyaluronic acid-injectable formulation (Ial-System ACP, Fidia Farmaceutici S.p.A., Abano Terme, Italy). As we noted in our paper [1], IAL-SYSTEM ACP was shown to accelerate tendon healing in an experimental study on flexor tendon injury and to reduce adhesions after abdominal, pelvic and nerve surgery. IAL-SYSTEM ACP has also been successfully used in skin rejuvenation and skin blemish treatment.

We completely agree with the authors' first comment about the small sample size even though this sample was validated by our statistics center (Centre of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Medical Information Technology, "Politecnica delle Marche" University, Ancona) which calculated the absolute variations at T0 and T90 based on the POSAS score [2], as described in the paragraph on the statistical analysis of our paper [1] respecting the statistical significance. In any case, we are aware of the small number of treated cases and therefore we have already started a multicenter study that will involve four different centers with a greater number of patients and therefore with an even more precise statistical significance.

We agree with the authors' second comment about the comparison of this treatment with other mentioned treatments [3]. Our study was configured as a preliminary prospective study where the purpose was to evaluate the safety and efficacy of IAL-SYSTEM ACP. Therefore, in this context, we have decided not to compare this treatment with existing ones. Furthermore, we were not interested in demonstrating the superiority of one treatment over another. In this regard, the new multicenter study involves comparison of this product with a placebo and with intralesional infiltration of triamcinolone acetate.

As we noted in the discussion and conclusion of our paper [1], we certainly agree with the authors that further research is needed to develop this treatment, through prospective, controlled clinical studies on a greater number of patients, in order to assess its impact on pathological scars.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Statement of Human and Animal Rights This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed Consent For this type of study, informed consent is not required.

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