

Osteoarthritis and Cartilage



Letter to the Editor

Response to Letter to Editor: ‘2-year outcome from two parallel randomized controlled trials. Reporting considerations’



Dear Editor,

We thank Nguyen *et al.*¹ for their interest in our recent publication in Osteoarthritis and Cartilage entitled “Total knee replacement and non-surgical treatment of knee osteoarthritis: 2-year outcome from two parallel randomized controlled trials”².

We do agree with the authors that clarity and transparency are crucial when reporting research findings. We believe our report from the two, parallel randomized controlled trials is adequate in terms of the comments given and aligns with best practice.

First, in the title, abstract, main text and in the figure legends, we clearly state that we are reporting the results from two parallel randomized controlled trials. Furthermore, both trial registration numbers are stated at the end of the abstract as required by Osteoarthritis and Cartilage and suggested by CONSORT. In the introduction and methods, we provide a thorough and transparent description of similarities and differences between the two trials. Based on our reporting, we find it difficult to believe that a reader would misinterpret this as a single four-arm trial. Second, to highlight that this is an extended follow-up of the two trials we refer to the primary reports^{3,4} in the introduction and the methods. As written by Nguyen *et al.*,¹ we clearly defined the primary outcome in this extended report as the between-group difference in change in Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score subscales, covering pain, symptoms, activities of daily living, and quality of life (KOOS₄) at 24 months while the primary endpoint of the two trials was the mean between-group difference in change in the KOOS₄ at 12 months.

Author contributions

Study conception and design. Skou, Roos, Laursen, Rathleff, Arendt-Nielsen, Rasmussen, Simonsen.

Drafting the letter or revising it critically for important intellectual content. Skou, Roos, Laursen, Rathleff, Arendt-Nielsen, Rasmussen, Simonsen.

Final approval of the letter. Skou, Roos, Laursen, Rathleff, Arendt-Nielsen, Rasmussen, Simonsen.

All authors take responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of the content.

Conflict of interest

Dr. Roos is deputy editor of Osteoarthritis and Cartilage, the developer of Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) and several other freely available patient-reported outcome measures and co-founder of Good Life with Osteoarthritis in Denmark (GLA:D), a not-for profit initiative hosted at University of Southern

Denmark aimed at implementing clinical guidelines for osteoarthritis in clinical practice.

Dr. Skou is associate editor of Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy, have received grants from The Lundbeck Foundation, personal fees from Munksgaard, all outside the submitted work. He is co-founder of GLA:D. GLA:D is a not-for profit initiative hosted at University of Southern Denmark aimed at implementing clinical guidelines for osteoarthritis in clinical practice.

The authors report no other conflict of interest.

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