

Author's response to reviews

Title: Autologous Bone Graft versus Demineralized Bone Matrix in Internal Fixation of Ununited Long Bones

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Professor Axel Ekkernkamp

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München, den 05.06.2009

Dear Professor Ekkernkamp:

The present study entitled „Autologous Iliac Crest Bone Graft versus Demineralized Bone Matrix in Internal Fixation of Ununited Bones” was conducted at the Trauma Surgery Department of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. Despite constant improvement in orthopaedic trauma care during the last decades, more than 10% of all fractures, however, do not unit. Unfortunately, non-unions are not only associated with a severely reduced quality of life for each victim but also with an utmost increased socioeconomic burden compared to regular fracture healing. Hence, the subject of this manuscript is relevant and of interest for a wide range of professionals who are involved in the care of these patients.

There are several prior reports on the influence of bone graft substitutes on healing rates. But further clinical data comparing autologous bone graft to demineralized bone matrix are needed. Since both grafting-types are introduced in our department since 01/2000, the intention of the present study aims at new findings in non-union treatment.



I would like to emphasize that there was no funding by any company or any other institution and the manuscript was designed by the use of the RATS-protocol.

Finally, we would be very pleased to have found your support by publishing this study and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Pieske, MD