



Author's reply to the letter to the editor of *Journal of the Korean Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons*

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Dear Editor,

I appreciate the letter presented by Costa et al.¹ regarding the recently published review article².

First of all, as stated in “9.1.3 Why perform a meta-analysis in a review?” of “Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions”³, presence of more than author is optional to decrease selection bias not an obligatory to accept or refuse the review because it is very common to let third one to remove the conflict or use other statistical means to accept or reject the paper that I think that the reviewer of the article proficiently can play that role.

Also, Fig. 1 is an image from “page 88” of the review² and you notice the systematic PICO very clear in subtitles.

Finally, divide the follow-up period according to the heterogeneity between studies. When heterogeneity found you should divide into subgroups as short period-intermediate period and long period follow up and we all know that splint wearing period affect muscles and habits so we should differentiate the results according to the period of wearing I think no problem in that division specially the results becomes more clear.

Thank you for refer.

Thank you for your effort.

Any further announcement is welcomed.

2. Population
Patients with myofascial pain and/or disk displacement with or without reduction were included. Patients with arthritis or neuralgias were excluded.
3. Intervention
The study included all types of splints (stabilizing splint, Michigan splint, centric relation appliance, flat occlusal appliance, soft or hard splints, vinyl appliances, and positioning splints).
4. Control group
The patients in the control group underwent medical treatment, biofeedback, non-occluding splints, massages, behavioral therapy, cognitive, counseling, or no treatment.
5. Outcome
1) Primary outcome
Pain intensity was estimated with any recognized, validated pain scale: visual analogue scale, numeric rating scale, characteristic pain intensity, and symptom severity index. Subgroup analyses were carried out for the outcomes based on the follow-up duration classified into one, two, three, six, and twelve months.

Fig. 1. Image showing the inclusion of four items of PICO (Population, Interventions, Comparators, Outcomes) in the review article².
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Author's Contributions

The manuscript was written by A.A.H.F.

Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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