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Correspondence

Reply to "Comment on: Inflammatory mediators in osteoarthritis: A critical review of the state-of-the art, prospects, and future challenges"

Dear Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Sundeep Khosla,

We appreciate the efforts of Anna Litwic and her colleagues [1] for writing a well-advised comment on our published review article entitled "Inflammatory mediators in osteoarthritis: A critical review of the state-of-the art, prospects, and future challenges" [2]. In their recent letter, Litwic et al. [1] have highlighted the noteworthy results of their previous research on the relationship between baseline inflammatory factors and rate of radiographic development of knee osteoarthritis (OA) over a period of 10 years in older men and women. In their original work, they have demonstrated that baseline inflammatory factors did not correlate with the rate of radiographic knee OA progression over 10 years. Although, at the time of writing our review article we did not cite some of the results in this concept [3,4], in our paper, we have clearly stated in "Section 5. Imaging techniques for diagnosis of inflammation in OA" that *"many studies have reported a weak correlation between pain and radiographic findings, in which some patients with advanced radiographic findings have shown no pain symptom and some patients with pain demonstrated no radiographic signs of OA"*. This indicates that although radiographic techniques might be useful for OA diagnosis in early stages, they are almost always unable to fully track the progression of OA. Since finding early changes in OA by conventional radiographic methods is usually difficult, modern imaging techniques such as MRI and US are being increasingly used for investigating early signs and symptoms. Here once again we emphasize that our critical review is in accordance with the findings reported by Litwic et al. [1] and the other articles which have concluded the same results [5–9]. We thank the authors for their interest in our review article and for taking the time to highlight their own significant contributions to the field.

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