LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Effectiveness of bone scans in the diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the temporomandibular joint

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In reference to the article by Kim et al.,¹ we would like to congratulate the authors on publishing an informative study. However, there are few concerns regarding this study that we would like to share with the authors.

First, the authors did not mention whether ethical clearance or informed consent were obtained for this study. These considerations are important while conducting a study, especially one involving radiation exposures.

We feel that a mention of the exact number of patients included in the study along with their clinical and radiographical diagnoses (*i.e.* unilateral/ bilateral involvement, internal derangement/osteoarthritis) in the materials and methods section would have enabled readers to make a clearer interpretation of the results.

Even though it is appreciable that the interobserver reliability was calculated for the interpretation of panoramic radiographs in this study, we fail to understand why it was not checked for interpretation of the bone scan images. Also, it is known that while interpreting planar nuclear images nuclear activity from adjacent structures may be superimposed on the

area of interest.² Such a factor should also be considered while interpreting the results.

Another appreciable factor in this study is that both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyse the bone scan images. However, no comparison was made between these two methodologies in the results section of the study. We would like to know the authors' experience in this regard.

Finally, we would like to bring to notice an error in the first paragraph of the results, in which the authors have mentioned number of *patients*, instead of number of *joints*.

This study has attempted to quantify the interpretation of bone scan for the diagnosis of osteoarthritis of the temporomandibular joint and we would like to highlight our appreciation for the efforts taken by the authors in conducting this study.

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References

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