Letter to the editor on “Distal femoral rotational alignment in the Indian population-an important consideration in total knee arthroplasty”

Keywords:

Rotational alignment
Total knee arthroplasty
Epicondylar axis

Dear editor,

We were interested to read the article by Tul B. Pun et al. published in journal of clinical orthopaedics and trauma in 2015.¹ The objective of the study was to measure the angular relationships of the distal femoral rotational axes in the normal Indian population.

Magnetic resonance imaging scans of 40 subjects were analysed. Posterior condylar axis, transepicondylar axis, and Whitesides line were used to measure the posterior condylar angle (PCA) and whiteside epicondylar angle. Author in methodology defines the transepicondylar axis by a line joining the most prominent part of lateral epicondyle and center of medial epicondylar sulcus. The posterior condylar angle measured 4.67.

In this study there are two diagrams illustrating the axes. The surgical epicondylar axis is shown as line connecting the most prominent parts of lateral and medial epicondyles. Ideally, it should be the sulcus in the medial side.² Figure- 1 of the article defines posterior condylar angle as between the transepicondylar axis and the posterior condylar axis. Berger et al. proposed PCA as one between the surgical epicondylar axis and the posterior condylar axis.² Moreover in Table- 1 the author compares his study with existing studies.¹ The mean PCA of the current study was compared with those of Mullaji et al.³ and Nagamine et al..⁴ The above two literature used the condylar twist angle instead of PCA. One cannot compare posterior condylar angle and condylar twist angle together as both are different. Yoshioki et al.⁵ defined the condylar twist angle as the angle between the posterior condylar line and the clinical epicondylar axis. Clinical epicondylar axis is obtained by connecting the most prominent points in medial and lateral epicondyles.

To conclude, the methodology used in the study needs to be

verified and the comparisons are to be corrected.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgement

Nil.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcot.2018.12.002>.

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