Reply to comment on Chen et al: patellar resurfacing versus nonresurfacing in total knee arthroplasty: a meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials

Chen Kai

Published online: 8 June 2013
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2013

We are glad to answer your questions in order. Through an accidental computer disaster in April, the records of much of our work on the computer were lost but I checked my notebook and USB disk to find the remaining notes and data, and did my best to answer your queries in order.

1. We tried several search strategies when searching for publications. For Medline our search strategies might be:
 - ① ((patellar retention) OR (nonresurfacing the patella) OR (patellar nonresurfacing)) AND ((patellar resurfacing) OR (resurfacing the patellar));
 - ② ((patellar retention) OR (nonresurfacing the patella) OR (patellar nonresurfacing)) AND ((patellar resurfacing) OR (resurfacing the patellar)).

For Embase, our search strategy might be:

“Embase
Session Results

No. Query Results	Results Date
#1. patellar AND retention OR (nonresurfacing AND the AND ('patella'/exp OR patella)) OR (patellar AND nonresurfacing) AND (patellar AND resurfacing OR (resurfacing AND the AND patellar))	48 14 Nov 2012

I don't remember the latest search strategy we used. But in my notebook I noted that at last we found 55 studies in Medline, 54 studies in Embase. Number of studies in Cochrane was not sure, it might be 12. Data were checked

by two of the authors to ensure the accuracy. Finally we got the 14 studies included in our study.

2. Before this study, we also searched in the wanfang database. I remember that a meta-analysis in Chinese studied by Dr. Hu Shuo was founded. Finally, we chose not to use Chinese literature. We decided to undertake another meta-analysis of Chinese literature separately if possible. If we do this study, we will inform you if we found language bias.
3. In our study, the funnel plot showed low publication bias, so we did no special statistical tests. Only the reoperation study included all the 14 studies, so we only drew a funnel plot of reoperation.
4. Your suggestion is very valuable and if possible, we will undertake that kind of study. Thank you very much.
5. We carried out this study based on two meta-analyses published in 2011:
 - ① He JY, Jiang LS, Dai LY (2011) Is patellar resurfacing superior than nonresurfacing in total knee arthroplasty? A meta-analysis of randomised d trials. *Knee* 18:137 – 144.
 - ② Fu Y, Wang G, Fu Q (2011) Patellar resurfacing in total knee arthroplasty for osteoarthritis: a meta-analysis. *Knee Surg SportsTraumatol Arthrosc* 19:1460– 1466.

Having studied the methods of the two papers we designed our study at last, including the method of meta-analysis you have questioned. I plan to read the paper of DerSimonian R and act on your suggestion later. If a significant difference is found, I will report to you and the editor.

Thanks very much for your suggestions. You are welcome to Shanghai to exchange further communications.

Thank you very much!

Kind regards,

Chen Kai

C. Kai (✉)
Nanjing Medical University, Yan Chang Road 301,
Shanghai, China
e-mail: magaer@126.com