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Reply from the authors

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We thank Dr Zink for his interest in our article and his comments. We agree with Dr Zink’s statement that the “animal model used in Erden et al.’s study has not been designed in order to clearly detect chondrocyte apoptosis and necrosis not to mention the missing dose-response curves to clearly assess chondrotoxic effects”. We also agree with Dr Zink’s statement that “animals with unaffected joints and thus an intact and chondroprotective perichondrium have been examined, which does not mimic the clinical situation at all”. However, we mentioned this in

our limitations as “the main limitation of this study is that the animal model chosen here does not represent the clinical situation as clinicians deal with injured or diseased knee joints during medical practice”. We are fully aware of and share Dr Zink’s concerns about the chondrotoxic effects of local anesthetics. Dr Zink pointed out that “there is good evidence that intra-articular injection of local anesthetics may result in severe damage in cartilage tissue”; however, as far as we know there are no data about the chondrotoxic effect of levobupivacaine while anesthesiologists are using it widely in the clinic even intra-articularly [1, 2]. For these reasons we designed this study. We know that just one animal study is not enough to make absolute conclusions. Finally, as we mentioned in our article “further studies including different concentrations and more than one administration of the study drug may yield more information about possible tissue inflammation by intra-articular administration of levobupivacaine into the knee joint are needed”.

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Interessenkonflikt. Die korrespondierenden Autoren geben für sich und ihre Koautoren an, dass kein Interessenkonflikt besteht.

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**Erratum zu:
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 durch das
 Anästhesieteam**

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Der Autor macht auf Folgendes aufmerksam:

Bei den Desinfektionsmittelangaben zur Hautdesinfektion auf S. 68 muss es heißen:

- Cutasept® med F statt Cutasept F®
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Wir bitten um Beachtung.

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