

Comments on: “Enhancing the QUINTET Study: Exploring Quality of Life After Open Lower Limb Trauma While Strengthening Research Methodology”

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Dear Editor,

We would like to thank Karamitros et al. for the kind feedback provided to our recently published QUINTET study¹. It is encouraging to see how there is a growing consensus about the importance of researching the long-term sequelae associated with open lower extremity fractures. The authors of this quick response have undertaken a critical appraisal of our research, and we appreciate the time invested in doing so.

As presented in our original manuscript, the QUINTET study faced multiple challenges, leading to limited recruitment overseas². We do agree with Karamitros et al. that a small sample size and uneven patient enrolment unfortunately limit the generalisation of the results obtained. Despite these issues, we strived to be transparent about them, while addressing the factors that influenced that impacted recruitment in our experience. Although a more comprehensive and better powered statistical analysis would have been desirable, we restrained from conducting further enquiries considering the previously expounded limited sample size.

We do agree with our commentators that we should continue exploring underlying systemic factors that play a role in delivering open fracture care, inevitably affecting patient experience. The Limitations to the Implementation of Open Trauma Guidelines (LINEAGE) study is a recently concluded research project, in which by using qualitative research methodology we explored the current challenges in introducing evidence-based healthcare for open fractures. In this we also took the opportunity to investigate the limitations for conducting research in open lower extremity fractures, at a global scale. Once published, we hope it will provide further insight for clinicians and researchers interested in investigating and improving the care of patients that sustain open lower limb fractures, from a physical and quality of life point of view.

Disclaimer:

The authors disclose no conflicts of interest regarding this submission.

No ethical approval was required for the manuscript here enclosed.

References

1. Karamitros G, Grant MP, Lamaris GA. Enhancing the QUINTET Study: Exploring Quality of Life After Open Lower Limb Trauma While Strengthening Research Methodology. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery*.
2. Berner JE, Ortíz-Llorens M, Fries CA, Nanchahal J, Jain A. Quality of Life after Open Extremity Trauma (QUINTET) study: an international, multicentric, observational, cohort study of quality of life following lower extremity open fractures. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery*.