

# Osteoarthritis-Related Knee Pain Treated With Genicular Artery Embolization: Letter to the Editor

**Dear Editor:**

In the July 2021 issue of *OJSM*, a meta-analysis by our group was published with a focus on treating osteoarthritis of the knee through genicular artery embolization (GAE).<sup>2</sup> We are very grateful for the attention *OJSM* has given to this publication, which will be of value to the nascent interdisciplinary field of embolization-based strategies for treatment of musculoskeletal diseases. In the significant time window between our submission and the final publication, some canonical studies released their results; among them, an important publication by Little and colleagues<sup>1</sup> of the

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (Reading, UK), who addressed interim results of the GENESIS study (the preliminary results of which were addressed in our work). We commend the authors for their fantastic job, both in their methodology and in their interpretation of their findings. GENESIS is the largest reported cohort with patients suffering from mild-to-moderate knee osteoarthritis undergoing GAE.

In our meta-analysis, we included preliminary data from GENESIS. We feel compelled to mention that updating this analysis with recently released interim data has led to minor alterations in the findings reported in our paper. The original parameters are in Table 2 of our paper, and the altered version after including the interim results from the study of Little et al<sup>1</sup> are outlined in Table 1 below.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and believe that these modifications, however minor and not radically affecting our published data, should be brought to the attention of the *OJSM* readership.

TABLE 1

Quality Ratings of Included Studies According to NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Case Series Studies: Updated Version<sup>a</sup>

First Author (Year)	Question Number <sup>b</sup>									Overall Rating	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2
Bagla (2020) <sup>3</sup>	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	N/N	Y/Y	Y/Y	Fair	Fair
Okuno (2015) <sup>7</sup>	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Fair	Fair
Okuno (2017) <sup>8</sup>	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Fair	Fair
Shibuya (2018) <sup>11</sup>	Y/Y	N/N	na/N	N/N	Y/Y	N/N	N/N	N/N	N/N	Poor	Fair
Lee (2019) <sup>6</sup>	Y/Y	Y/N	na/na	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	Fair	Fair
Kumar (2020) <sup>4</sup>	Y/Y	nr/N	Y/Y	Y/Y	nr/nr	Y/N	N/N	nr/N	nr/nr	Fair	Poor
Padia (2020) <sup>9</sup>	Y/Y	Y/N	nr/nr	Y/Y	nr/nr	N/N	Y/Y	N/N	nr/nr	Fair	Fair
Bagla (2020) <sup>3</sup>	Y/Y	N/N	nr/nr	Y/Y	nr/nr	Y/Y	N/N	N/N	nr/nr	Fair	Fair
Piechowiak (2017) <sup>10</sup>	Y/Y	nr/N	nr/nr	Y/Y	nr/nr	Y/Y	N/N	N/N	nr/nr	Fair	Fair
Lauko (2020) <sup>5</sup>	Y/Y	Y/Y	na/na	na/na	Y/Y	Y/Y	Y/Y	na/na	Y/Y	Fair	Fair
Little (2021) <sup>1</sup>	Y/Y	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	Y/Y	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Fair</b>

<sup>a</sup>Bold text indicates areas that were updated from the initial publication. The Quality Assessment Tool for Case Series Studies is available at <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/study-quality-assessment-tools>. N, no; na, not applicable; NIH, National Institutes of Health; nr, not reported; Y, yes.

<sup>b</sup>Questions: (1) Was the study question or objective clearly stated? (2) Was the study population clearly and fully described, including a case definition? (3) Were the cases consecutive? (4) Were the patients comparable? (5) Was the intervention clearly described? (6) Were the outcome measures clearly defined, valid, reliable, and implemented consistently across all study participants? (7) Was the length of follow-up adequate? (8) Were the statistical methods well described? (9) Were the results well described?

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