

Dear Editor

Thank you for choosing me as a reviewer for this manuscript. I studied the paper and here, I quoted my comments as below:

- 1- In spite of the title "Modic Changes in Patients with Lumbar Disc Herniation within Five Years Post-Discectomy" most of the data extracted from the studies lasted for 1 to 2 years of follow-up. This time frame is not suitable for studying the natural history of a degenerative process like Modic changes. Although the authors conducted a thorough research on this subject, short duration of the follow-up period reduces the significance of the obtained results.
- 2- The way of studying (design, search strategy, study selection, etcetera) was admirable and I have no criticism for it.
- 3- In my opinion, papers without any illustration reduce the attractiveness and glory of the published paper. I recommend the authors add a figure shows the MC transformation throughout the follow-up period.
- 4- In the background section, the authors quoted "MC have been **established** as an independent risk factor for episodes of low back pain (Määtä et al. 2015)." This association has not yet been proven and is questionable. You can find thousands of paper in valid international journals that state this matter. For example:

Hopayian K, Raslan E, Soliman S. The association of modic changes and chronic low back pain: A systematic review. J Orthop. 2022 Nov 17; 35: 99-106. doi: 10.1016/j.jor.2022.11.003.

Therefore, it is more logical to replace the word "established" to "proposed" in this paragraph.

- 5- The authors nicely mentioned "strengths and limitations" of the study in the last section of the discussion, and this is admirable.

Overall, I like this paper and accept it with minor modifications mentioned.

Regards

Dr Farzad Omid-Kashani

Professor of Orthopedic and spine surgery

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