



Reply to “Letter to the Editor on: The impact of the third fragment features on the healing of femoral shaft fractures managed with intramedullary nailing: a radiological study”

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We read with great interest and appreciate the comments by Shih-Jie Lin et al. “Letter to the editor on: The impact of the third fragment features on the healing of femoral shaft fractures managed with intramedullary nailing: a radiological study” in the January 2019 edition of *International Orthopaedics* [1].

Nonetheless, we would like to clarify the following points. With reference to the potential bias due to the inter-observer variability, it is important to remark that all the measurements were performed in the true-AP view x-rays (incorrect x-rays were excluded from our study) [2]. Moreover, it should be noted that also in the previous studies [3–5], x-rays were used to assess the third fragment features. However, we are already working on a CT-based protocol, in order to obtain a more accurate prognostic algorithm.

Finally, we reported the third fragment size, defined as the length of the major axis of the fragment [2], rather than the fragment width in the manuscript data, since the logistic regression showed that the fragment size has a critical role on the fracture healing time.

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