Response to the letter by Minghui Peng, MD, Baohua Jiao, MD

Firstly, the authors would like to thank Dr Jiao for his interest in our study and his interesting questions.

The authors agree about the need of a CT scan exam in order to detect a burst fracture. All our patients underwent a CT scan exam at their hospital arrival in order to classify the fracture type and to decide the appropriate treatment. Only when the authors identify an A3 fracture at CT scan, they decide to perform a percutaneous pedicle screw fixation.

The case reported in the Fig. 6 is surely a case of multilevel fractures. As said, all patients in our study underwent a preoperative CT scan. In this case, the CT scan points out the fractures both in L1 and L2, which are both A1.1 fractures and a single A 3.1 fracture in L3, which the authors decide to surgically treat. Exclusion criteria refer only to single A 3 fractures, without considering A1 fracture which treatment is generally conservative. Exclusion criteria are also represented by the association with more complex fractures in which a percutaneous pedicle screw fixation is an insufficient treatment.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.