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Dear Editor

Thank you for your review and comments. Please find below a point-by-point response in addition to the requested changes, identified by track-changes, in the revised manuscript. Please accept my apologies that these did not get returned to you by the requested date; this was unfortunately beyond my control, and I have addressed the issue as quickly as possible since it came to my attention. I hope that this delay has not caused undue inconvenience, and that it will not preclude further review of this manuscript.

**Editorial comments:** *(Responses in italics)*  
  
1.Please add a one line space between each step and sub-steps of your protocol section.

*Spaces have been added*  
  
2.Please re-write steps of your protocol section in imperative tense, as if you are telling someone how to do the technique (i.e. "Do this", "Measure that" etc.). For example, step 1.1, please being with “Use cynomolgus macaques..”. In step 2.2, “..should be clipped” etc

*Protocol steps have been re-written in imperative tense.*   
  
3.In step 1.2 please consider rephrasing “Planning meeting” and begin as “Plan surgery..”.

*Step 1.2 has been rephrased accordingly.*  
  
4.Please define all abbreviations upon its first occurrence. For instance “IM” in step 2.1, “OR” in 2.2 etc.   
  
5.In step 2.2, how is sedation confirmed, please specify.

*Sedation is confirmed by observation. This step has been clarified.*   
  
6.Please write step 2.2 in imperative tense.

*Step 2.2 has been revised.*  
  
7.In step 2.5 please specify what fluids are being administered. Please specify list of all reagents, materials, tools, equipment’s used in the materials and equipment’s table.

*Intraoperative fluids include 0.9% normal saline and 5% dextrose. Details have been added to point 2.5 and the materials table updated.*

8.Please rephrase step 2.6 in imperative tense.

*2.6 has been revised.*  
  
9.In step 2.10 please replace betadine with povidone-iodine.

*2.10 has been revised.*  
  
10.Please rephrase step 4.15 in imperative tense and please mention “We routinely…” as a NOTE under this step.

*4.15 has been revised, and note added.*

11.In step 5.3 please replace “We find..” with “Use 2.0 mm compression plates for..”.

*5.3 has been addressed.*  
  
12.In step 6.1 please place “The elbow should be..” as a NOTE.

*6.1 has been revised and note added.*  
  
13.Please rephrase step 6.2 in imperative tense.

*6.2 has been revised and a note added.*  
  
14.Please provide a representative result that shows the immunological and functional outcomes following the surgery.

*Further details of the functional outcomes have been added to the representative results section. The immunological outcome has been augmented by addition of representative histology, demonstrating the absence of rejection, to figure 6. We hope that this adequately addresses this critique.*

15.Please cite all the figures in the protocol text where applicable.

*Figures are cited in text were applicable.*   
  
16.Your protocol exceeds the 2.75 page of highlighting. After you have made all of the recommended changes to your protocol (listed above), please re-evaluate the length of your protocol section. There is no page limit for the protocol text, but there is a 3 pages limit for filmable content. If your protocol is longer than 3 pages, please highlight (in yellow) 2.75 pages (or less) of text to identify which portions of the protocol are most important to include in the video; i.e. which steps should be visualized to tell the most cohesive story of your protocol steps. Please see JoVEs instructions for authors for more clarification. Remember that the non-highlighted protocol steps will remain in the manuscript and therefore will still be available to the reader.

*Highlighting has been revised to meet 2.75 page limit.*   
  
17.Please revise the text to avoid the use of any pronouns (i.e. “our”). Please use the Ctrl+F function to find and replace the pronouns.

*The manuscript has been reviewed to replace pronouns.*  
  
18.Please print and sign the attached Author License Agreement, then scan and upload it with your manuscript files.

*Please find attached author license agreement.*  
  
19.Due to the nature of being a video based journal, JoVE authors must be very specific when it comes to the humane treatment of animals. Regarding animal treatment in your protocol, please only add the following information to your text if applicable:  
a)Please include an ethics statement before your numbered protocol steps indicating that the protocol follows the animal care guidelines of your institution.

*The ethics statement already in place has been expanded.*

b)Please specify the euthanasia method.

*Two options are available for euthanasia. These have been specified in Note 1 to Point 4.15.*

c)Please mention how animals are anesthetized and how proper anesthetization is confirmed.

*Anesthetic details are covered in protocol section 2. Point 2.8 has been expanded to clarify assessment of anesthetic depth.*

d)Use of vet ointment on eyes to prevent dryness while under anesthesia.

*This statement has been added to point 2.4*

e)For survival strategies, discuss post-surgical treatment of animal, including recovery conditions and treatment for post-surgical pain.

*These topics are covered in detail in protocol section 6.*

f)Do not leave an animal unattended until it has regained sufficient consciousness to maintain sternal recumbency.

*With due respect, sternal recumbency is not relevant to assessment of recovery in non-human primates. Protocol section 6.5 includes the statement “monitor continually until fully alert and recovered from anesthesia”, we trust this statement will be sufficient.*

g)Do not return an animal that has undergone surgery to the company of other animals until fully recovered.

*This statement is not applicable to this protocol. Due to the potential for interference with the transplanted hand, and the risk of severe wound infections following otherwise minor injuries while under immunosuppression, animals on this protocol currently remain individually housed and are not returned to group housing. Careful monitoring of psychological well being is conducted by investigators and non-human primate enrichment specialists. This is all in accordance with best practice and all necessary guidelines, but is not easily and concisely described in a few lines of text. For the time being we have not included a specific alternative statement, but if journal policy or editorial/review preference is that some additional statement is required we should appreciate your advice on how best to address this – would, for example, something similar to the second and third sentences of this paragraph be appropriate?*   
  
20.Please make sure that the “Discussion” section covers the following pints running between 3 – 6 paragraphs.   
a)Critical steps within the protocol  
b)Modifications and troubleshooting  
c)Limitations of the technique  
d)Significance of the technique with respect to existing/alternative methods  
e)Future applications or directions after mastering this technique  
  
*The discussion has been reviewed to ensure these points are addressed, and some additional discussion added where necessary.*

We hope that these revisions adequately address your editorial concerns. Again, please accept my sincerely apologies that these revisions are being returned later that the requested date. We hope that this does not cause undue inconvenience and that it will be possible for this paper to continue through the editorial and review process.

Many thanks, and kind regards

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