Dear Donjoy Research Grant Review Panel:

We are writing this letter in request of support for our research mission aimed at determining the ***Effects of unloader bracing for treatment of knee OCD lesions***. ROCK, the Osteochondritis Dissecans Research Group, a multi-center study group was formed in 2008, to prospectively study this condition. The group includes 30 surgeons, representing 23 centers in the US, Canada, Sweden, Germany, and Singapore. The primary objective of this group is to develop evidence based methods of treatment for this disease that affects a growing number of young, active people. Our goal is to develop a collaborative approach between institutions, including physicians, research departments and administrators, to develop cartilage treatment centers that would be part of a Center of Excellence for the Treatment of Pediatric, Adolescent, and Adult Sports Medicine/Cartilage conditions. We have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Myer through our ROCK group collaboration. His innovative web portal, as outlined in his research plan, is a cornerstone to the success of several ongoing ROCK research projects.

The ROCK group has received significant support from the *American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons*, and members of the *Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North American* and the *American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine*. A primary goal of this group is to develop database registries and employ prospective research designs, to better define the natural history and optimize treatment outcomes for this condition. The group will also focus on the development these programs consistent with initiatives for outcomes research to support Accountable Care Organizations, Value Based Purchasing, and Comparative Effectiveness Research.

We enthusiastically present this application that is focused to evaluate the clinical efficacy of knee unloader bracing for non-operative and post-operative treatment of OCD lesions which is the next critical link to support prospective clinical effectiveness investigations that will help determine the best treatment of Osteochondritis Dissecans in children. We have no doubt that this current project will continue to advance the related evidence. We thank you in advance for considering this grant application for this unique venture which will pay large dividends to our mission.

Sincerely,

 

St Lukes Sports Medicine, St Lukes Childrens Hospital, Boise, ID



James L. Carey, M.D., M.P.H.

Director of the Penn Center for Advanced Cartilage Repair

   and Osteochondritis Dissecans Treatment

Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania