Techniques of High Tibial Osteotomy: A Review

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Abstract

Main intention of the research is to understand about significance of techniques associated with HTO. This research reviewed the techniques of high tibial osteotomy namely high tibial osteotomy, open wedge high tibial osteotomy, closed high tibial osteotomy. Patients who are suffering from knee arthritis, high tibial osteotomy assists to prevent or delay the requirement for total or partial replacement of knee to preserve damaged tissue of joint. High tibial osteotomy technique is mainly suitable for active and young patients with knee osteoarthritis. Age plays a main factor in success rate of high tibial osteotomy technique. It could be done in open wedge or closed wedge high tibial osteotomy. For some cases, surgery could be done in combined method (open wedge and closed wedge high tibial osteotomy). When compared with clinical outcomes of closed wedge high tibial osteotomy and open wedge high tibial osteotomy, open wedge high tibial osteotomy performs well in reducing the pain, duration of weight-bearing and return to normal life as soon as possible.

Keywords

High Tibial Osteotomy, Open Wedge High Tibial Osteotomy, Knee Osteoarthritis, Closed Wedge High Tibial Osteotomy

1. Introduction

Joint in knee is main and complicated joint for motion and load, entailing the PF (patellofemoral) joint and TF (tibiofemoral) joint. Joint in knee stability is mostly dependent on interacting cartilaginous and ligamentous meniscus, structures and some tendons and muscles. Loads given on tibiofemoral joint are sometimes over BW (body weight) during every day activities and average high forces for resultant were peak when climbing down the stair (346 percent BW), climbing up the stairs (316 percent BW) and walking level (261 percent BW). Force distribution between medial and lateral is relied on TF alignment and differs within various tasks like weight-bearing [1]. At the time of walking gait, distribution of
load between medial and lateral differs based on tibia [2] [3]. Nearly 75 percent of load in joint passes through plateau of medial tibial at the time of single-leg stance [4].

Nowadays, OA (Osteoarthritis) is commonly seen among adults like joints disease all over the globe. It is functioned by progressive articular cartilage loss come with novel formation of bone and mostly synovial proliferation would culminate in joint function loss, pain and disability [5]. A report given by world health organization about global load of disease reveals that knee osteoarthritis (KO) mostly to become fourth main major reason of disability among females and eighth most reason among males [6].

KO is most commonly seen in India when compared with western countries and also found one of major disability like any other chronic ones. KO is seen commonly seen in elderly person but nowadays even it is affecting person age less than fifty years [7]. Both local factors such as deformity in the joint and weakness in the muscle and systemic factors like genes, sex and age seem to major factor among individual joints which develop the disease. Particular aetiological factors are not known; at the same time also encompass failure of internal remodelling system controlled by chondrocyte, mechanical overloading and additional cartilaginous factors like vascular changes or synovial changes [8]. High tibial osteotomy (HTO) is surgical technique accepted for medial knee arthrosis compartment in young patients. HTO’s biomechanical principle which redistributes the forces of weight bearing from compartment of worn towards lateral compartment thus relieves pain and lowers the progression of disease. Choosing suitable patients, accurate surgical technique and extensive planning for pre-operation are needed for successful result [9].

KO is general clinical disease which affects person above 65. Major reasons of KO are overwork, knee degenerative diseases, postural errors and more. Deformities of knee, which represent one of main reason of KO, were not taken seriously. It could cause damage in force line at lower limb, surface wear of knee cartilage and collapse of tibial plateau which lead to KO. Most significant method of treatment in clinic is arthroplasty of knee. Such method is traumatic, expensive and complications prone and revision of artificial joint after surgery. At the same time, complete application of HTO is tissue regeneration of chronic distraction and external fixation assisted in computer for treating severe KA has effective and exact control on the angle of HTO, patient recover quickly, low volumes in bleeding, postoperative ability of adjustment, surgical trauma at low levels and so on [10].

HTO is best option in physically active and younger patient with loss of symptomatic cartilage and malalignment of varus [11]. Though, HTO has revision rate of nearly thirty percent at 10 years, attributable either to arthrosis development in patellofemoral or lateral compartments or arthrosis progress in compartment of medial tibiofemoral [11] [12].

Presently only option for revision for failed HTO is TKA (total knee arthro-
plasty). When compared with primary TKA, inferior and equivalent results [13]. Other than this, active patients at young age like require revision post-HTO and at the same time primary TKA also link with main levels of not satisfaction and higher rates of revision [14] [15] [16]. UKA (uncompartamental KA) are best alternative among patients with arthrosis of TF compartment and they are not included because of modified mechanical alignment, distorted tension of soft tissue in post-HTO and abnormal obliquity of tibial joint line [17] [18]. Below Figure 1 illustrates inclusion and exclusion criteria of articles searched using various medical databases.

2. Literature Review

A search was carried out using electronic database like Medline, PudMed, Scopus, and Web of science and Embase. Key words used for searching are high tibial osteotomy, open wedge high tibial osteotomy, closed wedge high tibial osteotomy, healing after high tibial osteotomy, knee osteoarthritis. After the initial search of articles, eligible articles were screened cautiously for review.

2.1. HTO

HTO was found to be attractive and successful option for treatment particularly for active and young patients with medical compartment KO. It transforms the bearing of weight axis to comparatively not affected lateral compartment [18] [19] [20] [21]. There are two fundamental techniques are mostly carried out medial OWHTO and lateral closing wedge HTO [22] [23] and closed-wedge HTO [24]. Numerous investigators [25] [26] [27] [28] have pointed that HTO is seen as surgical treatment option in medial femorotibial osteoarthritis. On the other hand, Merchan [29] found that HTO do not impact survival or function of TKA for long run. Further [13] [30]-[34] also studied about patients who underwent HTO technique.
Malahias et al. [35] pointed out that patients with deficient varus angulated knee-anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) require isolated HTO as well as extra ACL reconstruction. From the findings of the investigation, it was found that ACL reconstruction and one stage HTO is efficient and safe procedure to treat the patients who suffer from symptomatic varus osteoarthritis to combine with instability of anterior knee. Cao et al. [36] and Takeuchi et al. [37] mentioned that HTO indicated an enhanced sign for active patients with best motion range of knee. Even though there are no main variances in clinical results between HTO and UKA at 2-years and 12 months follow-up, benefits of HTO is to preserve joint of knee as soon as probable, great corrective impact of mechanical axis and postponement or avoidance in replacing the knee [22] [38] [39].

Weiye et al. [40] studied about male patient aged 48 years with KO occurred by long-term varus of genu which outcome in both knees pain, particularly in right knee. Pain in the right knee was intensified for two years and admitted in hospital for pain of left knee for 1 month. It was found that for treating the KO patients with varus of genu, HTO combination, regeneration of tissue in chronic distraction and computer-assisted adjustment in technology of external fixation have best impact on correcting the deformity of genu varus and recovery of minimal line of limb force. Such method for treatment is conductive to prevent infection of post-operative and avoid secondary trauma occurred by removing the plates of internal fixation.

According to Sarwar et al. [41] HTO is verified to have high rate in success and low rate in complication with the occurrence of non-union as minimal as 0 - 4.4 percent. 80 percent of patients bring back their regular schedule after 1 year, 2/3rds of them as demanding level or higher than levels of preoperative. It is substitute procedure for arthroplasty of knee in active, young patients with malaigned knee induced degeneration of medial compartment. Substantial result in long term is direct outcome of suitable in selection of patient, exact surgical fixation and technique and sufficient postoperative management. It was claimed that HTO is efficient for reducing the pain and function of knee improvement in patients with knee’s medial compartmental OA; on the other hand, no osteotomy technique found higher to others and no proper evidence that HTO is more efficient when compared with non-operative treatment or UKR [42].

Functional outcome and physical activity among patients who present with medial compartment KO. 174 patients who underwent HTO are estimated after 47.9 days follow-up periods. Physical activities and functional outcome scored based on published rating systems. 81.6 percent of patients were satisfied with surgery outcome, 64.3 percent of the patients opined that they would able to perform their daily activities after surgery without any decline or restriction in performance. 58.6 percent of the patients able to resume physical activities at levels of pre-operative. Further few patients could continue exercises. From the findings of the research, it was obvious that HTO permit patients to continue their physical activities with symptomatic osteoarthritis of KO medial compart-
ment, outcome in enhancing clinical conditions and as a result in their recreational activities and every day working activities [43].

Patient with increased age was interlinked with higher rates of failure after surgery of HTO [44] [45] [46]. Hui et al. [7] compared patients older and younger than fifty years and identified hazard ratio of 3.7 percent among patients above 50 years. When carrying out multivariate analysis, age was found to be main factor of patients who undergo arthroplasty with 8 percent high risk for increasing age at every one year. However it is not clear that what cutoff of age could be adopted, high rise in rates of failures likes to happen in age group of 50 to 60 years. Older patients who decide to do HTO surgery have to consider all risk factors. It was noted that impact of age on revision when compared with OA preoperative diagnosis is very less and therefore severity of the disease and physiological age are better signs of revision instead of preferring complete biological age.

Pannell et al. [47] identified 1576 procedures from 2000 to 2014, among these 358 procedures were changed to arthroplasty during ten years. It was found that older patients who undergone arthroplasty after surgery HTO had great frequency of hypertension and great likelihood of getting comorbidity. Furthermore, it was noted that patients were 8 percent would need arthroplasty for every other year in age. It was noticed that female patients were under high conversion risk to arthroplasty than male patients. Apart from these, survivorship at 10 and 5 years was 56 percent and 80 percent respectively and failure rate’s median time was 5.1 years. Long-term survival was seen among selected patients who undergone HTO. Careful observations have to be provided to patient sex, age and KO when patients decide to undergo this procedure.

Kumar et al. [48] conducted single centre and interventional research was performed on 60 patients were radiologically and clinically diagnosed as varus deformity KO. After assessment of proper pre-operative one, patient had undergone HTO. Outcomes in terms of clinically were estimated with functional score and score of knee society. At regular intervals, follow-up was done for patients during third, sixth and 12th month. Mean functional score and knee score of preoperative mean for patients’ prior operation were 53.22 percent and 54.3 percent respectively. Functional score and knee score at 1 year was found to be 81.5 percent and 82.3 percent respectively. Thus comparison score of postoperative and pre-operative indicated statistically important enhancement in functional and knee society score. From the findings of the investigation, it was found there was major rise in functional score and knee score after HTO for patients of varus deformity KO. Thus HTO must be suggested for degenerative arthritis treatment of knee in active, young patients for symptomatic enhancement and activity levels maintenance.

HTO is adopted for physically active and young patients with KO. Such patients have huge hope, encompassing RTS (Return to sport). It was identified that more than 8 patients out of 10 after HTO, return to sport and among them most of them RTO within six months. A move from participation in high and intermediate effect sports to intermediate and low effect scores are predicted.
Thus it was clear from the outcomes that HTO is a medical substitute to KA in active and young patients with KO [49].

2.2. Open Wedge HTO

Yokoyama et al. [50] recommended that impact of OWHTO emerged in three months and average period for healing was 6.3 months. This research evaluated 47 patients who undergone OWHTO treatment. Women and patients with high body mass index would like to have a much time to heal. Such facts are taken into consideration when selecting suitable method for surgery and have to be shared with patients with degenerative gonarthrosis of medial type since this could be main data for patients for deciding whether to undertake OWHTO.

Prospective interventional research in hospital was carried out on 30 patients of varus deformity osteoarthritis. All 30 patients were properly assessed the form of pre-operative surgical intervention in HTO was carried out and result was estimated using scoring system of knee society. This research has revealed that HTO for patients with UCO (Unicompartmental osteoarthritis) would reduce the pain as well as maximize the functional and knee score. Suitable selection of patient, exact types of osteotomy and exact surgical techniques are important for HTO success. It was also found that successful result of HTO is maintained for eight to ten years thus delay the necessity for conversion to arthroplasty of total knee. Thus HTO are suggested for treating the knee’s degenerative arthritis among young patients [51].

OWHTO is an expanded method to treat the patients with MCO (medial compartment osteoarthritis) and VM (varus malalignment). For these patients, HRQL (health-related quality of life) are enhanced by adopting such procedure. 120 patients were selected for this research who undergone OWHTO without a graft of bone with the TomoFix™ plate. Mental component score for lower preoperative outcomes in minimized postoperative clinical result and extended time of inability for work after OWHTO. On the other hand, score of physical component exhibit comparable values to usual inhabitant already six months after OWHTO [52].

[33] [45] [46] stated that HTO is best suitable for treating the young patients. Age was found to be main factor for selection of HTO patient. Bonasia et al. [53] examined 99 OWHTOs patients and it was identified that age was main factor, probably failed operation was 5 times highest in patients aged greater than 56 years which indicate there must be necessity to again consider the range of age. Results are consistent with the findings of [45].

It was revealed that medial OWHTO would influence the patellofemoral joint (PJ). Some of the researchers have opined that medial OWHTO result in patella baja, thus lead to maximized pressure in patellofemoral contact [54] [55] [56]. In addition to these, some researchers have investigated about that impact of medial OWHTO on PJ with the help of arthroscopic assessment. It was found that overall decline in PJ at articular cartilage over time with the help of medial OWHTO [57] [58] [59] [60].
Moon et al. [61] examined over 92 patients with medical OWHTO and proceeding by assessment of 2nd-look arthroscopic. Patients were categorized into 2 groups. Comparative analysis was carried out with respect to measurements of arthroscopic, radiographic parameters and clinical scores among two groups. From the outcomes of clinical result, it was indicated overall enhancement from baseline to 2nd-look operation time, with no major variance between 2 groups. In radiographic parameters, no significant variances were found among two groups. Patellofemoral osteoarthritis in terms of radiographic grade in both groups indicated no statistical significant but shown development. When considering arthroscopic assessment, size of cartilage lesion on PJ maximized with time among two groups, whereas change degree over time among 2 groups were not significant statistically. As a result, no significant variance was seen among frequency in the grade of cartilage lesion progression in PJ among 2 groups. Medical OWHTO are responsible for osteoarthritis progression of PJ with respect to status of pre-existing cartilage, without the link with following up at short-term in clinical outcomes.

Erquicia et al. [62] studied about patients who undergone surgery with Bi-plane OWHTO and minimum 2 years of follow-up were taken into consideration. 23 patients were considered with 33 months of follow-up. No alternations in lateral patellar tilt, slope of posterior tibial and patellar height were noticed. No patients were found with both clinical and radiological symptoms at joint of patellofemoral. OWHTO with tibial tubercle posterior and dihedral L-cut distal perfectly aligned axial malalignment with no modifications at posterior tibial slope and patella-femoral joint and give enhanced function at knee for minimal term follow-up. Clinical and radiographic outcomes pointed out that adopting such technique for treating varus malalignment and KO medial compartment in middle-aged and young persons with normal-to-low patellar height.

High EKAM (external knee adduction moment) is a replacement assessment of medial loading of knee, thus correlates greater with internal forces of medial contact in initial stance [63]. OWHTO minimizes initially elevated high level of EKAM which is minimal when compared with noticed control subjects [64] [65] [66].

Dragosloveanu et al. [67] determined that there was no significance between after slope of surgery tibial and preoperative varus whereas posterior inclination after HTO impacts the slope of tibial posterior at two years. Correction degree has strong impact over reduce or increase in slope of tibial posterior. A rise in tibial slope maximizes the flexion in the knee by 1.45 degree for each inclination degree. Moghtadaei et al. [68] evaluated the impact of proximal HTO on hip biomechanics. Cohort research was carried out fifty knees of thirty seven patients categorized into 2 groups of bilateral and unilateral surgeries from 2015 to 2016. Patients who operate on medical OWHTO were assessed. Outcomes from bilateral and unilateral HTO have shown that average of GT (greater trochanter) angle from head center of femoral and average knee varus angle was minimized.
HTO influences GT and reasons for GT’s downward replacement and thus reduce the arm of abductors moment, maximized force of hip joint reaction and shear force reduction on femoral neck.

In the research conducted by Yang et al. [69] reconstructed models of finite element with the help of models in artificial bone, plate of commercial bone & locking screws in model of HTO. 6.5/8.0-mm pretensioned or 6.5-mm cancellous screw of lag was practically added from opposite cortex to plateau of medial tibial. To simulate initial sit-to-stand and standing postures testing loads were adopted. Posteromedial tibial plateau (PTP)’s axial displacement shows loss of PTP in clinical notification and focuses on locking screws, plate in the bone and opposite screws were examined. Insertion of pretensioned screw of lag efficiently minimized the loss of reducing posteromedial when compared with model of HTO without insertion of opposite screw helps to sit-to-stand by 53 percent, 6.5-mm lag screw assist to stand by 50.8 percent, 8.0-mm lag screws helps in standing by 51.9 percent normalized by intact model performance. Stresses given on screws were less than corresponding plates of bone thus threat of breakage of screw are less. It was confirmed that insertion in the pretensioned opposite screw of lag is efficient and simple technique to enhance the structural stability in MOWHTO (medical open-wedge HTO). Clinical and biomechanical verification is needed for enhancing confidence of patient in this technique.

2.3. Closed Wedge HTO

Soleimanpour et al. [70] identified a statistically related difference between closed wedge HTO and OWHTO. It was clear that OWHTO was significant in operation length, duration of weight-bearing and return to normal lifestyle. Prognosis of single and integrated HTO with other procedures was studied. It was found that postoperative follow-up after 2 years, prognostic survival was best in terms of OWHTO when compared with CWHTO [71]. OWHTO minimized lateral thrust (LT) and varus movement on the other hand CWHTO does not minimize LT [65] [72].

Kim et al. [73] carried out meta-analysis to compare the survivorship longevity of OWHTO versus CWHTO. Time for survival was taken into consideration for conversion time to TKA. When survival rate were followed for 5 years were 95.1 percent in OWHTO and 93.9 percent in CWHTO. It was clear that 1.2 percent high survival rate was seen in OWHTO than CWHTO. Likewise when patients were followed for 10 years, survival rate for OWHTO were found to be 91.6 percent and CWHTO were found to be 85.4 percent. Even after 10 years follow-up, OWHTO had 6.2 percent higher survival rate than CWHTO. Not much difference were seen when analyzed for 5 year follow-up but analyzing survival rate for 10 years, OWHTOs was higher in terms of survival rate.

Huizinga et al. [74] conducted a research with 110 osteoarthritis patients with knee medial compartment with varus malalignment (6° - 12°) among persons aged 18 years are recruited for participating in controlled randomized trial. They
are randomized to undertake a HTO with either CWHTO or combine technique of wedge osteotomy. Combined HTO changes avoid bone loss in metaphyseal tibial, reduce tibial condyle transposition and lessen patellar tendon after surgery, this is applicable for high correction case also. Clinical outcomes of combine HTO are effective. It was obvious from the analysis that when follow-up after one year of surgery, combined HTO technique had achieved more exactly what patient need during varus malalignment correction with less anatomical modification of proximal tibia.

3. Discussion

Table 1 depicts various techniques in HTO. HTO is important surgery in active and young people with KO medial compartment. From the review, it was noted that complication rates, correction loss and delayed union was high among patients whose graft was unused. Techniques of open wedge and closed wedge are adopted for KO patients. OWHTO is successful and safe option of treatment for varus deformity patients. When compared with CWHTO, OWHTO performs well in terms of survival rate and return back to normal life (Duivenvoorden et al., 2014 and Deie et al., 2014). At the same time, it could be noticed that when HTO performed above 50 years patients, success rate is less than young patients.

| S.No | Author and Year | Methodology | Findings |
|------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| 1    | Malahias et al. (2018) | Patients with deficient varus angulated knee-anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) require isolated HTO as well as extra ACL reconstruction were reviewed | ACL reconstruction and one stage HTO is efficient and safe procedure to treat the patients who suffer from symptomatic varus osteoarthritis to combine with instability of anterior knee |
| 2    | Yang et al. (2020) | 6.5/8.0-mm pretensioned or 6.5-mm cancellous screw of lag was practically added from opposite cortex to plateau of medial tibial | Insertion in the pretensioned opposite screw of lag is efficient and simple technique to enhance the structural stability in MOWHTO |
| 3    | Weiye et al. (2020) | Male patient aged 48 years with KO occurred by long-term varus of genu which outcome in both knees pain, particularly in right knee | Treating the KO patients with varus of genu, HTO combination, regeneration of tissue in chronic distraction and computer-assisted adjustment in technology of external fixation have best impact on correcting the deformity of genu varus and recovery of minimal line of limb force |
| 4    | Sarwar et al. (2019) | Success rate and complication rate among patients after HTO were reviewed | HTO is efficient for reducing the pain and function of knee improvement in patients with knee’s medial compartmental OA |
| 5    | Carvalho et al. (2016) | 174 patients who underwent HTO are estimated after 47.9 days follow-up periods. Among them 118 patients were male and 56 patients were female. Age of the patients were from 53 to 67 years | HTO permit patients to continue their physical activities with symptomatic osteoarthritis of KO medial compartment, outcome in enhancing clinical conditions and as a result in their recreational activities and every day working activities |
6. Pannell et al. (2019)  
1576 procedures from 2000 to 2014, among these 358 procedures were changed to arthroplasty during ten years.  
Long-term survival was seen among selected patients who underwent HTO.

7. Kumar et al. (2019)  
Single centre and interventional research was performed on 60 patients were radiologically and clinically diagnosed as varus deformity KO. Age of the patients was from 45 to 50 years. 23 patients were male and 37 patients were female.  
HTO must be suggested for degenerative arthritis treatment of knee in active, young patients for symptomatic enhancement and activity levels maintenance.

8. Hoornije et al. (2019)  
Patients selected are from sports. Patients were selected from age group between 18 and 70 years.  
It was identified that more than 8 patients out of 10 after HTO, return to sport and among them most of them RTO within six months.

9. Yokoyama et al. (2016)  
47 patients who undergone OWHTO treatment. 34 female patients and 13 male patients were included. Mean age is 59.8 years.  
Women and patients with high body mass index would like to have a much time to heal.

10. Ganeshsankar et al. (2017)  
All 30 patients were properly assessed the form of pre-operative surgical intervention in HTO was carried out and result was estimated using scoring system. Patients’ age was between 45 years and 50 years. 10 patients were male and 20 patients were female.  
Successful result of HTO is maintained for eight to ten years thus delay the necessity for conversion to arthroplasty of total knee.

11. Moon et al. (2019)  
92 patients with medical OWHTO and proceeding by assessment of 2nd-look arthroscopic.  
Medical OWHTO are responsible for osteoarthritis progression of PJ with respect to status of preexisting cartilage, without the link with following up at short-term in clinical outcomes.

12. Erquicia et al. (2019)  
Patients who undergone surgery with Biplane OWHTO and minimum 2 years of follow-up were taken into consideration. 23 patients (8 females and 15 males) were considered with 33 months of follow-up. Patients were selected from age 20.1 to 54.3 years.  
Clinical and radiographic outcomes pointed out that adopting such technique for treating varus malalignment and KO medial compartment in middle-aged and young persons with normal-to-low patellar height.

13. Soleimanpour et al. (2013)  
Statistically related difference between closed wedge HTO and OWHTO. Mean age is 67.2 years. 76 patients were male and 65 patients were female.  
OWHTO was significant in operation length, duration of weight-bearing and return to normal lifestyle.

14. Kim et al. (2017)  
Meta-analysis to compare the survivorship longevity of OWHTO versus CWHTO.  
OWHTOs was higher in terms of survival rate.

15. Huizinga et al. (2014)  
110 osteoarthritis patients with knee medial compartment with varus malalignment (6° - 12°) among persons aged 18 years. Gender was not included in regression model.  
when follow-up after one year of surgery, combined HTO technique had achieved more exactly what patient need during varus malalignment correction with less anatomical modification of proximal tibia.

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4. Conclusion and Future Work

Main intention of the research is to understand about significance of techniques associated with HTO. This research reviewed the techniques of HTO namely HTO, open wedge HTO, closed HTO. Patients who are suffering from knee arthritis, HTO assists to prevent or delay the requirement for total or partial replacement of knee to preserve damaged tissue of joint. HTO technique is mainly...
suitable for active and young patients with KO. Age plays a main factor in success rate of HTO technique. It could be done in open wedge or closed wedge HTO. For some cases, surgery could be done in combined method (open wedge and closed wedge HTO). When compared with clinical outcomes of CWHTO and OWHTO, OWHTO performs well in reducing the pain, duration of weight-bearing and return back to normal life as soon as possible. This research is focused only about techniques and procedures related to HTO. This research generally reviews about the patients who underwent HTO procedure. Further this work could be extended by collecting data from patients who underwent HTO procedure.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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