Author's response to reviews

Title: Design and Organization of the Dexamethasone, Light Anesthesia and Tight Glucose Control (DeLiT) Trial: a factorial trial evaluating the effects of corticosteroids, glucose control, and depth-of-anesthesia on perioperative inflammation and morbidity from major non-cardiac surgery

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Dear BMC Anesthesiology,

The following revisions were made to the manuscript in order to make it flow smoother when reading:

Page 5, Background:

**The following section was deleted from the 1st paragraph:**

“This response has been linked to increased perioperative morbidity and mortality. Available evidence suggests that blunting the inflammatory response to surgical trauma might improve perioperative outcomes. The putative benefits from blunting the surgical stress response are likely to be greatest in high-risk patients such as those having major non-cardiac surgery. We will study three interventions potentially modulating perioperative inflammation, corticosteroids, tight glucose control and light anesthesia and their effects on major morbidity and mortality resulting from major non-cardiac surgery.”

**It was replaced with (from the 2nd paragraph, with slight modifications):**

“Inflammation is the body’s response to tissue injury[5] and results in production of inflammatory mediators[6], which are associated with considerable postoperative morbidity. For example, cardiovascular mortality is responsible for 17% of post-operative deaths[3]. Inflammation has been an important mediator in the pathophysiology of myocardial infarction, at all stages in the development of vulnerable plaque, from initial lipid deposition to plaque rupture. Thus, markers of systemic inflammation such as CRP may better predict perioperative cardiac morbidity and mortality than currently utilized strategies[7]. Furthermore, there is an important link between inflammation and poor perioperative outcomes[7, 8]. Thus interventions that moderate the inflammatory response may prove to reduce adverse outcomes[9].”

Page 9, 1st paragraph:

**The following sentences were added after the first sentence:**
“The putative benefits from blunting the surgical stress response are likely to be greatest in high-risk patients such as those having major non-cardiac surgery. We are thus studying three interventions potentially modulating perioperative inflammation, corticosteroids, tight glucose control and light anesthesia and their effects on major morbidity and mortality resulting from major non-cardiac surgery.”

The following was deleted:
“three interventions that potentially modulate perioperative inflammation: corticosteroids, tight glucose control, and light anesthesia.”

Page 10, under “Settings and Population”:
The word “hwill” was changed to “will”.

Page 10, under “Ethics”:
The word “study” was added before the word “protocol”.

Page 12, 2nd paragraph:
The following sentence was deleted because it was mentioned elsewhere:
“Blood for high sensitivity CRP (hsCRP) and cardiac troponin T measurements will be sampled at the time of induction, at 1st and 2nd post-operative days.”

Pages 12-13, last sentence beginning on page 12:
The following was deleted: “at 5-minute interval” from the sentence, “Blood pressure and heart rate will be recorded at 5-minute intervals.”

Page 13, 1st sentence, 2nd paragraph:
“throughout the hospital stay” was added after the word “determinations” to the sentence: “We will record the admission glucose concentration…any additional glucose determinations (obtained for clinical purposes) will also be recorded.”

Page 13, 2nd paragraph, line 11:
The word “RCT” was changed to “randomized trial” in the sentence, “We will compare our results to other published….almost the same targets in their RCT in cardiac surgery patients.”
Page 22, List of Abbreviations:

The spelling of the following words was corrected from:

- Dissiminated to Disseminated
- thrombosus to thrombosis
- Ventillation to Ventilation

Page 35, Table 1:

The spelling of the following words was corrected from:

- anastmosis to anastomosis
- Dissiminated to Disseminated

Page 37, Table 2:

The spelling of the following words was corrected from:

- Thorombosis to Thrombosis