Author's response to reviews

Title: Early Rehabilitation in Sepsis : A Prospective Randomised Controlled Trial investigating Functional and Physiological Outcomes The i-PERFORM Trial (Protocol Article)

Authors:

Geetha Kayambu (g.kayambu@uq.edu.au)
Robert J Boots (r.boots@uq.edu.au)
Jennifer D Paratz (j.paratz@uq.edu.au)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Patel,

Please find attached the article “Early Rehabilitation in Sepsis: A Prospective Randomised Controlled Trial investigating Functional and Physiological Outcomes”. We wish to have this manuscript considered for publication in *BMC Anesthesiology*. Please note that this is an unsolicited protocol article.

This protocol article dictates the study background and research design for investigating the long and short-term outcomes following early rehabilitation in sepsis. This randomised controlled trial will determine the relationship between early physical exercise and sepsis syndromes. Firstly, this trial will investigate long-term (functional) with the use of health-related QOL questionnaires and ICU physical functional tools. In addition, the trial will look at novel short-term systemic (physiological) effects following exercise in sepsis syndromes using blood tests to measure levels of cytokines, lactate and mitochondrial DNA, and include non-invasive measurements of muscle mass, microcirculation and muscle oxygenation.

This trial will identify gaps in the evidence to support early exercise in the intensive care for the critically ill and suggest future research directions in the emerging area of early physical activity in the intensive care.

Geetha Kayambu prepared the first draft of the manuscript, which was edited and approved by all authors. Revision to this manuscript as suggested by BMC Medicine has been included.

Thank you for considering our submission. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Geetha Kayambu  BSc (Phyt) (Hons)
PhD Candidate, School of Medicine, The University of Queensland