Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of the safety of C-spine clearance by paramedics: design and methodology

Authors:

Christian Vaillancourt (cvaillancourt@ohri.ca)
Manya Charette (mancharette@ohri.ca)
Ann Kasaboski (akasaboski@ohri.ca)
Justin Maloney (jmaloney@sympatico.ca)
George A Wells (gawells@ottawaheart.ca)
Ian G Stiell (istiell@ohri.ca)

Version: 2 Date: 6 January 2011

Author's response to reviews:

January 6, 2011
Dr. Sonia Aguera-Gonzalez,
Executive Editor in Training
BMC Emergency Medicine

Dear Dr. Aguera-Gonzalez,

Please find attached a slightly revised manuscript for MS: 1922575480482817 entitled “Evaluation of the safety of C-spine clearance by paramedics: design and methodology”. We have made the following changes outlined below in response to the comments we received from yourself and Nina Titmus.

The first comment asked that we state within the Methods section of the manuscript that the ethics committee waived the need for informed consent. This had already been stated in the first submission, but we have since added an additional statement regarding the waiver of consent for paramedics that we received from the ethics board.

The second comment asked that we include the power calculation within the Methods section. The original submission included a section on Sample Size within the Methods section, outlining how the estimate of 3000 patients was derived. The estimate is based on previous research with the patient population and the EMS Service that is participating in the study. As such, although a formal power calculation was not performed when the protocol was developed, we feel the approach is reasonable for this observational study and have not made any additional revisions to the manuscript.

I trust you will find these revisions and clarifications satisfactory.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.
Yours sincerely,

Dr. Christian Vaillancourt, Principal Investigator