Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of a stress coping strategy on perceived stress levels and performance during a simulated cardiopulmonary resuscitation: A randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Requesting name of ethics committee:
Please update your ethics statement to include the name of the ethics committee that approved your study.

REPLY: We now provide details of the Ethical committee as follows: “The study was approved by the local ethical committee (Ethikkommission beider Basel, EBKK, http://www.ekbb.ch/), and written informed consent was obtained from all participants.”

Requesting trial registration where clinical trials are described (Asking authors for TRN):
We notice that you are reporting a clinical trial but have not cited a trial registration number. This must be obtained before we can begin peer review of your manuscript.

REPLY: We now provide details of the trial registration as follows: “Trial registration: NCT01645566”; please see http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01645566
Reviewer: Akira Nishisaki

This revised version of the manuscript is overall well written addressed reviewer’s concerns. Some minor correction/clarification is necessary before acceptance.

Major Compulsory Revision
1. None. All of my previous comments are appropriately addressed.

- Minor Essential Revisions
1. In Introduction, line 15, “comparatively” should be “relatively”.
   
   **REPLY: this is now changed as suggested**

2. In introduction at the end of the second paragraph, page 2, “one’s performance” should be “one’s own performance”.
   
   **REPLY: this is now changed as suggested**

3. In introduction, the third paragraph, “medical settings”, “medical performance” should be “clinical settings”, “clinical performance”.
   
   **REPLY: this is now changed as suggested**

4. In discussion section, authors discussed about ‘chronic stress’ in the third paragraph. I believe the stress related to CPR is an acute stress and not chronic stress. Authors need to clarify this.
   
   **REPLY: this is now clarified as follows:** “Only few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of interventions to reduce chronic stress in medical practice. Effects of such interventions have included a reduction in perceived stress-levels for treatment groups[41, 42], increased assertiveness scores[43, 44], and increases in job satisfaction[45]. One study of behavioral training in general practitioners demonstrated a benefit in developing skills at coping with stress[29]. This training improved the GP’s quality of work life and reduced their work-related psychological distress; yet, these were chronic stress situations and CPR related stress is an acute stress reaction. Similar stress coping strategies for acute emergency situations, such as CPR, are largely lacking.”

5. In the same paragraph, GP needs to be either spelled out or written as “general practitioner (GP)” for the first time it appears in the manuscript.
   
   **REPLY: this is now changed as suggested**
Reviewer's report

Reviewer: Koenraad Monsieurs

The authors have adequately addressed my concerns and comments.

Minor issue: in the new paragraph under limitations, "Hawthorne effect" should be written in singular. In the next sentence, please correct "...should be used in THE future for similar research".

REPLY: this is now changed as suggested