**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Quality of life and metabolic status in mildly depressed women with type 2 diabetes treated with paroxetine: A single-blind randomised placebo controlled trial

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Dear Editor,

in our revised version of the manuscript we have been able to address all of the helpful comments of the reviewer (John M Hughes). A point by point description of the changes made follows:

1. **Statistical analysis**
   We agree with the reviewer that the correct analysis of this comparative study is to test if the change from baseline between treatments is significant or not, and we have revised our manuscript accordingly. We have refrained from the Wilcoxon within-group test, and now use solely the Mann-Whitney test to analyse differences between groups. We prefer the Mann-Whitney test to the t-test because of non-paramatric distribution of data in the small groups. (To clarify a misunderstanding we want to point out that we never performed Z statistics, but we reported the z values of the Wilcoxon signed ranks tests in our original submission)

2. **Clinical importance**
   Our a priori primary outcome was defined as a 10% decrease in HbA1c levels. However, we think that the 6% decrease we found still may be of importance in reduction of diabetes complications. We have added a reference in support of our view.

3. **Tables**
   The tests for difference within groups have been removed from Table 2 and 3. Confidence intervals for differences between groups and Mann-Whitney-derived p-values for differences between groups have been added.

4. **Blinding**
   The study was single-blind, which obviously is a weakness. Because the study was investigator-initiated, we did not have access to identical placebo pills. Both paroxetine and the placebos were given to the patients in identical glass bottles, but the pills differed in colour and shape. Manufacturing of identical placebos was not possible due to financial constraints. However, all laboratory staff were blind to treatment. We have now described the blinding with more clarity in the Methods section.

5. **Adverse events**
   The adverse events have now been described in more detail (last paragraph of Results section).

6. **Testing randomisation**
   No statistical tests to compare baseline characteristics between groups are reported in the revised manuscript.