Author's response to reviews

Title: Outcome and patients' satisfaction after functional treatment of acute lateral ankle injuries at emergency departments versus family doctor offices: a prospective randomized study

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Version: 5 Date: 12 November 2008

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in your Journal.

Here are our statements to some last open points from your email (Nov 3 2008):

Ethics:
'performed according to the ethical conventions and guidelines of the University Hospital of Bern' means that we presented the study to the office of the ethical committee of the Canton of Bern for preliminary clarification. the study has been classified as a "quality control" investigation of an established treatment and procedure and therefore did not require a specific ethical approval from the above authority. Professor H Zimmermann has been a member of the ethics committee of the university hospital Bern and is granting for this decision.

Consort Flowchart:
I have created a Consort Flowchart showing the flow of participants through each stage of the study. Since the study design is very simple and no patients were lost during follow up I don’t think that this chart provides any extra information. By your request I have now uploaded a chart as additional file (ppt).

Please don’t hesitate to contact me whenever needed (lorin.benneker@insel.ch)

With kindest regards

Lorin M Benneker, MD