Author's response to reviews

Title: Elevated troponin I levels and cardiac-specific mortality in stable hemodialysis patients

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To the Editors,

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to thank you for considering our manuscript “Elevated troponin I levels and cardiac-specific mortality in stable hemodialysis patients” for peer review.

Below we address the specific requests for information point-by-point:

1. Ethical Approval - In the methods section, can you please include the full name of the ethical committee that approved this study.
   The name of the ethics committee (Research Ethics Board of the McGill University Health Centre) was added to the methods section.

2. Consent - Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.
   All blood tests were measured routinely in the hemodialysis unit at the time of the study and processed through the hospital’s central laboratory. Thus the institutional REB waived individual patient consent for use of existing clinical data. This information was added to the methods section.

3. Competing Interest – Please include a ‘Competing interests’ section between the Conclusions and Authors’ contributions. If there are none to declare, please write ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’.
   A section was re-titled ‘Competing Interests’ and the following was added to the manuscript:
   “None of the authors have any financial competing interests in relation to the publication of this study. AA was supported from institutional funds from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. None of the authors receive any funding, honoraria, or hold any stocks, shares, or patents that may be impacted by the publication of this manuscript.”

4. Authors' Contributions - Please include an 'Authors' contributions' section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.
   The following was added to the manuscript:
   “PB, AS and AA designed the study. AP, AA and AS were involved in the acquisition of data, statistical analysis, and interpretation of the results. All authors participated in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and all authors approved the final manuscript.”
We hope that the above changes satisfactorily address any and all concerns. We appreciate the consideration of our manuscript for publication in BMC Nephrology. We look forward to the peer review of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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