Author's response to reviews

Title: KNOW-KT (KoreaN cohort study for Outcome in patients With Kidney Transplantation: A 9-year Longitudinal Cohort Study): Study rationale and methodology

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To the Editors

I, along with my coauthors, would like to ask you to consider the attached manuscript entitled “KNOW-KT (KoreaN cohort study for Outcome in patients With Kidney Transplantation: A 9-year Longitudinal Cohort Study): Study rationale and methodology” for publication in the section of Study Protocols in BMC Nephrology. We have also changed several points in the revised version as you requested, marked corrections in red color in the revised manuscript, and summarized the changes with a point-by-point description in the end of this letter.

The KNOW-KT, a currently ongoing study, is the first large-scale cohort study in Asian kidney transplantation (KT) patients that aims to explore allograft survival rate, cardiovascular events, and metabolic profiles and to elucidate the risk factors in Asian or Korean KT patients. The KNOW-KT has enrolled 535 patients until now, and plans to enroll a total of 1,000 patients by 2015. In this manuscript, we describe the study rationale, design, and methodology being used. Analyzing this cohort and comparing it with other cohort studies in Western countries will provide information about the impact of race on transplant outcomes and a comprehensive insight into KT.
We believe that the findings of this study will be relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety, and is not under consideration by another journal. No article related to the KNOW-KT has been published or submitted to journals. The study design was approved by the appropriate ethics review boards. This study was funded by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013E3301601) after peer-review by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All the authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to your esteemed. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

The point-by-point responses to editorial requests are as followings;

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation
We have sent the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com by e-mail.

2. Funding
This research was supported by a fund (2013E3301601) from Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (a governmental funding) after peer-review by Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3. Study status
The KNOW-KT is an ongoing study. The KNOW-KT has enrolled 535 patients until now, and plans to enroll a total of 1,000 patients by 2015.

4. Related articles
No article related to the KNOW-KT has been published or submitted to journals.

5. Trial registration

KNOW-KT was registered in an international clinical trial registry (NCT02042963 at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) on January 20th, 2014.

6. Authors’ Contributions

JY, JL, JCJ, and CA participated in the design and coordination of the study. JL and Kyoungha Seo in the KNOW-KT Study Group are in charge of biostatistical analysis. KHH, JBP, JHC, SL, HR, SYH, YHK, and BJP reviewed the study protocol. JY, KHH, JBP, JHC, SL, HR, SYH, YHK, BJP, DJH, JCJ, SBP, WC, SKP, CDK, SJK, YSK, and CA were involved in patient enrollment, and data collection. JY, JL, and JCJ drafted the manuscript. All of the authors read, revised, and approved the final manuscript.

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Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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