Author’s response to reviews

Title: r.hu-Erythropoietin (EPO) treatment of pre-ESRD patients slows the rate of progression of renal decline

Authors:
 Mihaly Tapolyai (MTapolyai@aol.com)
 Satoshi Kadomatsu (unagi31042002@yahoo.com)
 Manuel Perera-Chang (Manuel.Perera-Chang@fmc-ag.com)

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ABSTRACT: Changed INTRODUCTION to BACKGROUND and explained the importance: “As EPO treatment of chronic anemia of advanced renal disease is now the standard of care we examined if such treatment would may slow the progression of renal function decline.”

ABSTRACT: shortened to 250 words.
ABSTRACT: Clarified methodology: “Data of 18 pre-ESRD patients were analyzed in a retrospectively12 months prior and prospectively 12 months after the initiation of EPO.”
ABSTRACT and ARTICLE: changed all "month 0" and "month 12" to "month_0" and "month_12"
ABSTRACT: eliminated 'm dashes' on page 2 (before the minus sign
ABSTRACT: corrected typo
ARTICLE - INTRODUCTION: reiterated the background of the investigation. "As the treatment of anemia of pre-ESRD patients with EPO is now the standard of care we investigeted whether such treatment may indeed slow the progression of renal function decline.”