Author's response to reviews

Title: Endoscopic surgery versus conservative treatment for the moderate-volume hematoma in spontaneous basal ganglia hemorrhage (ECMOH): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Majithia,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in contacting you. We understand the former submitted proof of the funding source is not sufficient, and the official funding approval is enclosed, which we received just a few days ago.

Several points mentioned in your last letter are clarified as follows:

1. Title of the study

The ECMOH trial is the sub-project of “Research on the Etiological Assessment and the Minimally Invasive Treatment Technique For the Hemorrhagic Stroke”, which is funded by the National Key Technology R&D Program for the 12th Five-year Plan of P.R.China (No.2011BAI08B05). But the official document of the funding approval only contains the title of the main project.

2. Funding body

The funding of the National Key Technology R&D Program is provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology of P.R.China.

3. Signature of the funding approval

In China, the official stamps have more authority than the signatures, so the funding approval is only stamped but not signed.

4. Peer review of the study protocol

The study protocol had been peer-reviewed. There were dozens of hospitals that participated in the competition for the funding of the National Key Technology R&D Program. We won the project through two rounds of review of the experts across the country.

5. Stage of the study protocol

Both endoscopic surgery and conservative treatment are widely used for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage in the past two decades, so it is a Phase IV study. And the
ECMOH trial has started to recruit patients.

6. There are no other manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

Thank you very much for the time and effort you spend on our manuscript, and we look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

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