Author's response to reviews

Title: Diagnostic and economic evaluation of new biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease: the research protocol of a prospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We are pleased to hear that you are considering our manuscript for publication. We provide a point by point response to the helpful comments of the reviewers. We hope that the revised manuscript entitled “Clinical and economic value of new diagnostic interventions for the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease: the research protocol of a prospective cohort study” is now suitable for the readers of BMC Neurology.

I confirm that this article has been read and approved by all the co-authors. The authors of the manuscript state that the manuscript, or parts of it, have not been and will not be submitted elsewhere for publication. All authors agree to the publication of the manuscript to BMC Neurology. The study was performed within the framework of CTMM, the Center for Translational Molecular Medicine (www.ctmm.nl), project LeARN (grant 02N-101). None of the authors have a direct or indirect financial relationship with the sponsor.

We hope that the manuscript is suitable for publication in your journal.

Yours sincerely,

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Response to the comments of the reviewers:

#1 Please could you include the name of the ethics committee that approved your study and also the names of all the participating centers within the manuscript.
Ethics - Experimental research that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html), and any experimental research on animals must follow internationally recognized guidelines. A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

Reply: We included the requested information in the methods section of the manuscript.
Changes made to the text in
- Section 2.1: study design: “Four academic memory clinics (Leiden University Medical Centre, Maastricht University Medical Centre, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre and VU University Medical Centre) specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of memory disorders participate in the study.”
- Section 2.7. Ethical considerations: “According to the medical ethics committee “Medisch Ethische Commissie azM/UM” the research protocol complies with the Declaration of Helsinki (October 2008, www.wma.net, ref.nr.: MEC 09-3-038) and with the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act and codes on ‘good use’ of clinical data and biological samples as developed by the Dutch Federation of Medical Scientific Societies.”

#2 Acknowledgements – Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study.
Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements.
Please list the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

Reply: We acknowledged the contributions of all authors and all who did not meet the criteria for authorship (no person was involved that did not meet the criteria for authorship). We stated the funding source of all involved persons.
Changes made to the text:
- Section Acknowledgements: “This research is performed within the framework of CTMM, the Center for Translational Molecular Medicine (www.ctmm.nl), project LeARN (grant 02N-101).
The study was designed by FV (project leader), JS (project leader), PA (project coordinator), PS, MOR, PJV, CW and RH. RH wrote the article and was assisted by CW. The article was critically revised by FV, PA, MOR, MJ and JS. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. All authors’ source of funding is the framework of CTMM, grant 02N-101.”
The funding body had no role in the study design, collection, analysis or interpretation of data, and in writing of the manuscript. The funding body checked the manuscript for possible intellectual property and approved the manuscript for publication without suggested revisions. The source of funding for the manuscript preparation is the framework of CTMM, grant 02N-101.”