Author's response to reviews

Title: Long term cerebral and vascular complications after irradiation of the neck in Head and Neck Cancer patients: A prospective cohort study. Study rationale and protocol

Authors:

Joyce Wilbers (Joyce.Wilbers@radboudumc.nl)
Arnoud C Kappelle (Arnoud.Kappelle@radboudumc.nl)
Roy PC Kessels (Roy.Kessels@radboudumc.nl)
Stefan CA Steens (Stefan.Steens@radboudumc.nl)
Frederick JA Meijer (Anton.Meijer@radboudumc.nl)
Roy Haast (roy.haast@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
Laura Versteeg (Laura.Versteeg@radboudumc.nl)
Anil M Tuladhar (Anil.Tuladhar@radboudumc.nl)
Chris L de Korte (Chris.deKorte@radboudumc.nl)
Hendrik HG Hansen (Rik.Hansen@radboudumc.nl)
Frank J Hoebers (frank.hoebers@maastro.nl)
Willem Boogerd (w.boogerd@nki.nl)
Erik D van Werkhoven (e-v.werkhoven@nki.nl)
Marlies E Nowee (m.nowee@nki.nl)
Guus Hart (guus.hart@xs4all.nl)
Harry Bartelink (h.bartelink@nki.nl)
Lucille D Dorresteijn (L.Dorresteijn@mst.nl)
Ewoud J van Dijk (Ewoud.vanDijk@radboudumc.nl)

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Dear Dr. Shipley,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Long-term cerebral and vascular complications after irradiation of the neck in Head and Neck Cancer patients: A prospective cohort study. Study rationale and protocol”, which we would like to submit to *BMC Neurology*.

The current study has the potential to make an important contribution to the knowledge of the causes and consequences of long-term cerebral and vascular changes after radiotherapy of the neck. Cancer and cerebrovascular disease are the two leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Radiotherapy induced carotid artery disease is a potential long-term complication after radiotherapy of the neck, that is associated with neurological complications. The current study will be helpful to develop a protocol for diagnostic and preventive strategies for long-term neurological complications after neck irradiation.

We certify that all authors have read and approved the submitted manuscript. The manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere nor published elsewhere in whole or in part. We state that there are no financial or other relationships which may lead to a conflict of interest.

After contact with your editorial office we provide you with additional information as requested:

1. Ethical and funding approval documentation
   We confirm that we have forwarded the ethical approval to *BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com*.

2. Funding
   Our study has not received external funding.

3. Study status
   We confirm that the study is ongoing. The patients are seen for follow-up and the investigators are still collecting and analyzing the data.

4. Related articles
   There are no publications containing the results of this study already published or submitted to any journal.

We feel that publication in *BMC Neurology* would be the best way to share our study protocol with the scientific community.

We hope that you will find this manuscript suitable for publication in *BMC Neurology*.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Wilbers, MD

Joyce Wilbers, MD, corresponding author
Department of Neurology, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre
PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen
Phone: +31-243616600; Fax: +31-24 3618837
E-mail: Joyce.Wilbers@radboudumc.nl, Ewoud.vanDijk@radboudumc.nl