Author's response to reviews

Title: Confounding Factors In Diagnosing Brain Death: A Case Report

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In light of our reviewer's comments, we have made several additions and clarifications to our report.

We expanded and clarified our paragraph on the arguable role hypothyroidism may play in the patient's clinical state and included Dr. Thomke's argument that her level of consciousness was apparently unimpaired prior to presentation.

In response to Dr. Swash's review, we added two paragraphs to more fully conclude the case report. We reemphasized the important point of medical illness precluding the satisfaction of the brain death criteria. We also added a sentence regarding the optional nature of confirmatory tests, with reference to the recent Neurology paper by Widjicks and the accompanying editorial. We've added specific mention of the UK brain stem death criteria and its preclusion of confirmatory tests of cortical activity such as EEG.

We feel this addresses each specific concern and we are grateful for their time and effort in assisting us with our report.