Author's response to reviews

Title: How do COPD patients respond to exacerbations?

Authors:

Jaap CA Trappenburg (j.c.a.trappenburg@umcutrecht.nl)
David Schaap (d.schaap@gmail.com)
Evelyn M Monninkhof (E.Monninkhof@umcutrecht.nl)
Jean Bourbeau (jean.bourbeau@mcgill.ca)
Gerdien H de Weert - van Oene (G.H.deWeert@umcutrecht.nl)
Theo JM Verheij (T.J.M.Verheij@umcutrecht.nl)
Jan-Willem J Lammers (J.W.J.Lammers@umcutrecht.nl)
Augustinus JP Schrijvers (A.J.P.Schrijvers@umcutrecht.nl)

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

Many thanks for this peer feedback procedure and the opportunity to revise our manuscript. Hereby we provide a point-by-point response to the concerns of the editor. We made the following revisions:

- Author list: the list of authors in the manuscript should be written exactly as they are in the submission system, both in style and order. The preferred style is ‘First name Initial Last name’ (e.g. Joe F Bloggs).

Authors list on page 1 of the manuscript are rewritten as they are in the submission system.

- Authors' contributions: Please indicate that all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

“All authors read and approved the final manuscript.” Is added in the 1st sentence of the authors contribution section on page 16.

- References: Please make sure references are cited in numerical order

All references are in numerical order.

- Tables: please note that we are unable to display text vertically within the cells: please re-layout your table without these vertical elements.

Table 2: are vertically cells are re-layout horizontally

- Abbreviations: Please format these in to a paragraph. Please make sure all abbreviations are spelt out and occur in alphabetical order.

All abbreviations are placed in alphabetical order. We do not exactly understand what you mean with formatting this in to a paragraph.

- Tables- please remove the visible vertical lines from your tables

All vertical lines removed from table 1 and table 2.
• Tables: please note that we are unable to correctly display merged cells where the merged cell crosses rows: please re-layout your table without these merged elements

We removed the merged elements, except for the 3 titles which each covers a ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘p-value’. Do you have suggestions how we should correct this, without loosing the adequate position of the title?

• Figures: It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures

We cropped all figures to minimise white space.

• Typography: Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions. This is the final proofing stage for your manuscript, and you will not be able to make any changes after acceptance.

Checked!

We hope we have addressed all queries adequately. We have revised the manuscript to the best of our knowledge and hope you will consider this manuscript for publication.

We are looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Jaap Trappenburg
David Schaap
Evelyn Monninkhof
Jean Bourbeau
Gerdien de Weert – van Oene
Theo Verheij
Jan-Willem Lammers
Augustinus Schrijvers