Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and safety of inhaled formoterol 4.5 and 9 microg twice daily in Japanese and European COPD patients: Phase III study results

Authors:

Miron A Bogdan (miron.a.bogdan@gmail.com)
Hisamichi Aizawa (aizawa@med.kurume-u.ac.jp)
Yoshinosuke Fukuchi (yfukuchi@tea.ocn.ne.jp)
Michiaki Mishima (mishima@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp)
Masaharu Nishimura (ma-nishi@med.hokudai.ac.jp)
Masakazu Ichinose (masakazu@wakayama-med.ac.jp)

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Major revisions (we require the author to make these changes)

Abstract: the trial registration number must be mentioned in the abstract. The last section of the abstract must be titled Trial Registration, and must list the trial registry and the unique identifying number. Please note that there must be no space between the letters and numbers of the trial registration number (e.g. ISRCTN12345678). Please ensure that you have also updated the abstract in the submission system to ensure it remains identical to the manuscript for both of the trial registration numbers.

Response: amendments made in abstract.

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

Response: Text now states all authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

References: please provide a functioning link to website

http://www.goldcopd.org/index.asp

Response: functioning hyperlink now provided.

Minor revisions (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)
Abstract: Please change the subtitle "Objective" back to "Background"
Response: Amend made.

Highlighting/tracking: Please remove all highlighting and tracking from the manuscript.
Response: highlighting and tracking removed from the manuscript.

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

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
Response: white space around figures reduced.

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.
Response: typography checked.