Author's response to reviews

Title: A systematic review on tracheostomy decannulation: discovering for a new era. A proposal of a quantitative semiquantitative clinical score

Authors:

Pierachille Santus (pierachille.santus@unimi.it)
Andrea Gramegna (gramegna.med@gmail.com)
Dejan Radovanovic (danko86@hotmail.com)
Rita Raccanelli (rita.raccanelli@fsm.it)
Vincenzo Valenti (vincenzo.valenti@unimi.it)
Dimitri Rabbiosi (dimitri.rabbiosi@ao-sanpaolo.it)
Michele Vitacca (michele.vitacca@fsm.it)
Stefano Nava (stefano.nava@unibo.it)

Version: 2
Date: 9 July 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors
BMC Pulmonary Medicine

please find enclosed the systematic review entitled "A systematic review on tracheostomy decannulation: discovering for a new era. A proposal of a quantitative semiquantitative clinical score" that we wish to submit for publication on the BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

The work presented in this ms reports an original systematic and critical review about tracheostomy decannulation. This systematic review of literature regarding tracheostomy tube removal analyzed predictors of successful decannulation for each relevant study. Moreover, our review provides the first proposal of decannulation score system based on current literature. The key point of our proposal is to give a higher score to the objective parameters taken in consideration by literature compared to less quantifiable clinical ones.

We hope that the ms will meet the standards for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine, providing to the ms the most significant audience.

We provided to perform requested modification and so, line numbering has been included in our new version of manuscript.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, I remain

Sincerely Yours
Pierachille Santus