Author's response to reviews

Title: Fracture Surgery of the extremities with the intra-operative use of 3D-RX: A randomized multicenter trial (EF3X-trial)

Authors:

Suzan M.S.H. Beerekamp (M.S.Beerekamp@amc.nl)
Dirk Ubbink (D.Ubbink@amc.nl)
Mario Maas (m.maas@amc.nl)
Jan S.K. Luitse (J.S.Luitse@amc.nl)
Peter Kloen (P.Kloen@amc.nl)
Taco J Blokhuis (T.J.Blokhuis@umcutrecht.nl)
Michiel J.M. Segers (m.segers@antoniusziekenhuis.nl)
Meir Marmor (marmorm@orthosurg.ucsf.edu)
Marcel G.W. Dijkgraaf (m.g.dijkgraaf@amc.nl)
Carel J. Goslings (j.c.goslings@amc.nl)
Project group EF3X-trial (info@ef3x-trial.net)

Version: 2 Date: 17 May 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Date: 09-05-2011

Subject: Revised manuscript of the study protocol of the EF3X-trial

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hereby I send you the revised manuscript of our study protocol, titled ‘Fracture Surgery of the extremities with the intra-operative use of 3D-RX: A randomized multicenter trial (EF3X-trial)’. We thank the reviewer for his constructive remarks and have changed the manuscript accordingly.

The reviewer prefers the alternative study design. However, the methodological quality of the design we have chosen is better than the more pragmatic design the reviewer suggests. In the more pragmatic design more bias is introduced as stated in the manuscript. In addition, in the more pragmatic design operative strategies would be compared in stead of the additional value of intra-operative 3D-imaging. As a consequence valuable information on diagnostic accuracy and overdiagnosing will be lost. Therefore we chose to randomize during surgery after the definitive adjustments based on 2D-fluoroscopy have been performed.

Furthermore we have adjusted the manuscript according to the remarks of the reviewer. The adjustments are highlighted with track changes.

We hope that we have revised this manuscript to your satisfaction and that these amendments will be suitable for publication.

We are looking forward to your response.

With kind regards,

Suzan Beerekamp, MD
PhD-fellow
Trauma Unit, department of Surgery
Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam
Room G4-137
Mailbox 22660
1100 DD Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Telephone: +31 (0) 20 566 66 26
Email: M.S.Beerekamp@amc.nl