Author's response to reviews

Title: The ANKLE TRIAL (ANKLE TReatment after Injuries of the Ankle Ligaments): what is the benefit of external support devices in the functional treatment of acute ankle sprain? : a randomised controlled trial

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Concerns: Fourth revised manuscript of study protocol randomized controlled trial ANKLE TRIAL (MS: 4138964585132804)

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to send you the fourth revised manuscript of our study protocol, after reading the latest remark of dr. Carl J. Lombard to the third revised manuscript. To complete the description of the statistical analysis in our non-inferiority trial, dr. Lombard asked us to add one phrase more. We have taken this comment and in this fourth revision we added this phrase in the description of the statistics on page 8 of the manuscript, which is highlighted in yellow as well.

I hope this change will lead us one step further to publication of the manuscript in the open access peer-reviewed journal BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. As far as we know the ANKLE TRIAL is the first randomized controlled trial (which follows the CONSORT statement) in which two functional treatment strategies with external support are compared to a control group without any form of external support. We are of the opinion that results of this study, which will follow in nearby future, could lead to a changed view on treatment of acute ankle sprains.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Witjes
(on behalf of co-authors Gresnigt, Van den Bekerom, Olsman and Van Dijk)