Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimation of Menstrual Blood Loss Volume based on Menstrual Diary and Laboratory Data

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Nazareno, dear editors,

in your kind advice in e-mail from this morning you have asked for naming the ethics committees who approved the study.

Explicit ethical approval for the research described in the submitted article was not necessary, because no data were collected especially for this research, but only an additional post-hoc statistical analysis based on data available from the given studies was performed. All responsible IEC / IRB have been listed in the respective study reports (please see given literature). Naming all single ethics boards who gave approval for the underlying studies would need several pages, since all studies were multicenter. If necessary, I can send this list as a separate document.

The request for the ethics committees was made by Dr. Atienza already for the first version of the article (7965823106533677). This time we found the following solution:

We added the following paragraph to the methods section:

>>
All studies were conducted in accordance with all local legal and regulatory requirements and with the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki and the ICH-GCP Guidelines. The protocols and amendments were reviewed and approved by each site’s Independent Ethics Committee (IEC) or Institutional Review Board (IRB) before the start of the studies and before implementation of the amendments.
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May kindly I ask you, whether this solution is still acceptable?

Kindest regards

Ulrike Schumacher

For your information, I attach the IEC / IRB for the coordinating investigators:

**First study**
Coordinating investigator: William D. Koltum, MD

IEC / IRB
Kim Lerner, BS
Independent Institutional Review Board, Inc.
6738 West Sunrise Blvd., Suite 102, Plantation, FL 33313

**Second study**
Coordinating investigator: Prof. Ian S Fraser,

IEC / IRB
Dr Walter Stern
FPA Health - Family Planning NSW
Ethics Committee
328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131, Australia
Reference number R2005105

**Third study**
Coordinating investigator: Andrew M. Kaunitz,
IEC / IRB
Theodore D. Schultz, JD
Ethics committee
MD Western Institutional Review Board
3535 Seventh Avenue, SW, Olympia, WA 98502