Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effect of paramedic training on pre-hospital trauma care (EPPTC-study): a study protocol for a semi-qualitative trial

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

We described changes, marks and notes in red. Thank you very much for your support.

MS: 4582425591166587
Study protocol
The effect of paramedic training on pre-hospital trauma care (EPPTC-study): a study protocol for a semi-qualitative trial
David Häcke, Stefan K Beckers, Marzellus Hofmann, Christoph G Wölfli, Bernhard Gliwitzky, Ulrich Stöckle, Paul Grützner and Matthias Münzberg
BMC Medical Education

Dear Dr. Haeske,

Thank you for your recent submission of the manuscript detailed above. Before we can proceed with peer review we will need you to make some changes to the manuscript. We strongly urge you to make these changes promptly, as we cannot start the peer review process until we have received a version containing the changes.

**Requesting trial registration where clinical trials are described:**
We noticed that you have included a Trial Registration Number in the ethics approval section of your manuscript. However, this does not seem to be working when looking at the DRKS webpage. Please note that in order to consider a Study Protocol, you need to provide a working TRN. In addition, the TRN needs to be included in the "Details" section of the submission system and in the last line of the abstract, as indicated in our guidelines (http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmededuc/authors/instructions/studyprotocol).

Our study is an educational study (teaching research), no clinical trial, so we need normally no TRN. But we registered the study (German Clinical Trials Registration). The study is just under review.

**Requesting ethics statement and funding proof:**
As you may be aware, it is the policy of the journal not to peer review study protocols where ethical and external funding approval have been obtained, as these processes usually involve peer review and as there is little possibility to change a protocol after enrolment begins. Therefore, could you please clarify whether you have ethical approval and external funding for your study, and if so, could you send evidence of your approvals to the address below?

- A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/ award from a charitable foundation).
- If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board.
- If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board.
- If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents.
- N.B. Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

Our study is powered by the German Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. For a main funding source we have a verbal approval from the “Research Coordination and Research Funding department at the German Social Accident Insurance DGUV, the written approval we expect in the mid of February.

Ethic approval: is existing
We sent an acknowledgement from the DBRD and the ethic approval at BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com with the reference no. 4582425591166587

Could you also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol?

We offered our manuscript to the Trials-Journal and the Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine but they find no use for that kind of manuscripts. Today our manuscript is in no other Journal submitted than the Medical Education.

BioMed Central requires all controlled clinical trials to be registered in a suitable publicly accessible registry prior to consideration for publication. The trial registers that currently meet all of the ICMJE guidelines can be found at http://www.icmje.org/faq.pdf.

Abstract
Please include your abstract in the main text, as well as the submission system. Remember to include a working TRN for your study as the last line of the abstract.

Done

Formatting
Please format your manuscript according to our guidelines for study protocols (http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmededuc/authors/instructions/studyprotocol)

Done

Power Calculation
Please include a calculation of the sample size used in your study

We have included the calculation in our manuscript for the questionnaire. The authors decided not to calculate the power for the participants, because it is an EMS-system based study.

Once you have made these changes, please upload the revised version by following these instructions:

1. Go to 'my BioMed Central' (http://www.biomedcentral.com/my/) and log on with your email address and password. Then click on 'My manuscripts'. You will reach a page giving details of all the manuscripts you have submitted.
2. Click on the 'Submit revision' button next to the title of this manuscript.
3. In the 'Manuscript details' tab, please update the title, abstract and author details if they have changed since the previous version.
4. In the 'Cover letter' tab, please provide a covering letter with a point-by-point description of the changes made.
5. In the 'Upload files' tab, please upload the revised version of the manuscript and press 'Submit new version'. Please wait for the confirmation page to appear - this may take a few moments.

We would be grateful if you could resubmit your files with the changes requested within the week. If we haven't heard from you or received the updated version by that time I'm afraid we may need to close the file, as we cannot keep submissions on hold indefinitely.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Aldrin

Aldrin Joseph Ulep
Journal Editorial Office