Author's response to reviews

Title: Does point of care prothrombin time measurement reduce the transfusion of fresh frozen plasma in patients undergoing major surgery? The POC-OP randomized-controlled trial

Authors:

Natalie Urwyler (natalie.urwyler@insel.ch)
Sven Trelle (strelle@ctu.unibe.ch)
Lorenz Theiler (lorenz.theiler@insel.ch)
Peter Juni (juni@ispm.unibe.ch)
Lukas P Staub (lukas.staub@ctc.usyd.edu.au)
Cedric Luyet (cedric.luyet@insel.ch)
Lorenzo Alberio (lorenzo.alberio@insel.ch)
Kay Stricker (kay.stricker@insel.ch)
Robert Greif (robert.greif@insel.ch)

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Manuscript Title: Does point of care prothrombin time measurement reduce the transfusion of fresh frozen plasma in patients undergoing major surgery? The POC-OP randomized-controlled trial.

Dear Dr Altman

We would like to submit our protocol for possible publication to the online journal TRIALS. This is the protocol from an ongoing study, which evaluates the usefulness of a point of care tool in transfusion management. Previously we performed an evaluation of accuracy of a device for point of care measurement of prothrombin time (Coaguchek® XS Plus, Roche Diagnostics, Basel, Switzerland) compared to the laboratory method as gold standard (Urwyler et al., Thromb. Haemost. 2009, in press). There is a strong need for point of care monitoring of coagulation in the intraoperative setting because bleeding is a dynamic process and can not be monitored with the standard coagulation studies.

I, as primary author, attest to the fact that all authors listed on the title page have read the manuscript, and made major contributions to the protocol and the study enrollment.

Dr. med. Natalie Urwyler, Attending Anesthesiologist, University Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Therapy Inselspital, , CH-3010 Bern
Phone +41 31 632 24 83, Telefax +41 31 632 05 54
natalie.urwyler@insel.ch, www.insel.ch, www.anaesthesie.insel.ch
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Yours sincerely,

Natalie Urwyler, M.D.
Attending Anesthesiologist
University Hospital of Bern
Switzerland