Author’s response to reviews

Title: Rationale, Design and Methodology for a Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study of Escitalopram in Prevention of Depression in Acute Coronary Syndrome (DECARD)

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Answer to reviewer’s report

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1. We agree with the reviewer that there is sufficient controversy about the screening for depression after an acute coronary syndrome and efficacy of antidepressants. We have added the reference from the recent review from JAMA 2008;300 (18):2161-2171. The sample size is calculated on the basis of primary endpoint, i.e. the incidence of depression.

2. The enrollment in the study is finished and the actual number of participants enrolled is 240.

   The randomization occurs within 8 weeks.

   The discrepancies between eligibility criteria of [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) and the manuscript are corrected.

   Study participants were recruited by 3 investigators. The study assessors are blinded.

   The primary endpoints are ICD diagnosis of depression and HDS.

   Secondary endpoints are mentioned in the manuscript.

   Deviations from protocol are mentioned in the manuscript.

3. The sample size is calculated on the basis of primary endpoint, i.e. the incidence of depression.

4. Grammatical errors are fixed.