Author’s response to reviews

Title: Against pragmatism: on efficacy, effectiveness and the real world

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Regarding Andrew’s other comment, I tried to write a brief paragraph to address this (also one reference), copied below.

"The last point we wish to make concerns the increased attention with which care is delivered in the context of a trial. Finding a signal of efficacy can be difficult and additional resources are often used to ensure that performance of therapeutic procedures or adherence to a medical regimen is especially meticulous. Unfortunately, helping patients in the real world is also often difficult and frequently requires meticulous care, and some new therapies may require substantial organizational or structural changes to be effective. While ultra-meticulous care in trials can give misleading results (that are potentially harmful to patients if generalized to inappropriate settings), “pragmatically” testing such new therapies in resourced-challenged environments may often be a recipe--or an excuse--for inertia; it sets so-called “usual care”, rather than the “best attainable and sustainable” care [13], as the aspirational standard."