Author's response to reviews

Title: IVC CLAMP: Infrahepatic Inferior Vena Cava Clamping during hepatectomy - A randomised controlled trial in an interdisclipinary setting [NCT00732979]

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Version: 4 Date: 9 September 2009

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09 September 2009

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Dear Dr. Kent,

thank you very much for your comments to our revised manuscript. Revised passages in the manuscript are highlighted yellow. Please find our answers to your comments below.

In the sample size calculation, can they clarify how they derived that they need 8 additional patients per group to account for the additional factor in the analysis of covariance?

We are convinced that adding a complete block of patients per group will be sufficient to ensure that the study hat the power to detect possible differences. Furthermore, it should be noted that including three continuous covaried in the model will further increase power. We are therefore very confident that our proposed sample size provides sufficient power.

If they expect a 30% drop out and enroll 144 patients, there sample will include 100 patients. This is less than the 112 patients needed according their own calculations (48 + 8 per group = 112). Please clarify.
We are grateful for this comment and apologize, as the sample size calculation in the revised version of the manuscript was incorrect. In the present version of the manuscript we removed this mistake. The correct sample size is 152 patients.

We hope that our revised version of the manuscript meets the high standards of *Trials* and we look forward to further notice. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any further questions.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Jürgen Weitz