Author's response to reviews

Title: Rationale and Design of EXPLORE: a Randomized, Prospective, Multicenter Trial Investigating the Impact of Recanalization of a Chronic Total Occlusion on Left Ventricular Function in Patients after Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention for Acute ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors-in-Chief of Trials,

Please find enclosed our revised trial design manuscript. The manuscript is entitled “Rationale and Design of EXPLORE: a Randomized, Prospective, Multicenter Trial Investigating the Impact of Recanalization of a Chronic Total Occlusion on Left Ventricular Function in Patients after Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention for Acute ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction” by the authors: RJ van der Schaaf, BE Claessen, LP Hoebers, NJ verouden, JJ Koolen, MJ Suttorp, E Barbato, M Bax, BH Strauss, GK Olivecrona, V Tuseth, D Glogar, T Råmunddal, JG Tijssen, JJ Piek, and JPS Henriques. (ID=1845889486363606)

In this revised version, the manuscript has been changed according to the journal style, where the conclusion heading is removed and added as a paragraph to the discussion section.

Regarding the closing date of EXPLORE, the closing date for the trial at the trial registration page is set at 2009. However due to slow recruitment this date was extended by the executive committee to November 2012. The extension of the inclusion period has been approved by the medical ethics committee (attachment). Moreover, in addition to extending the inclusion period, we increased the number of participating sites to accelerate enrolment in Explore.

We hope that our revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in ‘Trials’.

On behalf of all authors,

Yours sincerely,

Jose PS Henriques

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