Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of Erythropoietin on Depressive Symptoms and Neurocognitive Deficits in Depression and Bipolar Disorder

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors-in-Chief: Doug Altman, Curt Furberg, Jeremy Grimshaw and Peter Rothwell

RE: Effects of Erythropoietin on Depressive Symptoms and Neurocognitive Deficits in Depression and Bipolar Disorder

Thank you for the comments from the reviewer which are addressed below. We hope you agree that this has improved the manuscript and makes it suitable for publication as an original research paper in Trials.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kamilla Miskowiak
1. As requested by the reviewer, the sentence “Confidence intervals will be reported in relation to the proportions in remission” has now been added in the section describing the outcomes (underlined and marked with bold in text).

2. We agree with the reviewer that it is debatable whether a difference of 3 HDRS scores is clinically significant. According to the reviewer’s request we will highlight this issue in the discussion section of the final report. We have also underlined this in the Discussion section by including the following paragraph: “In the current study, the clinically relevant difference in depression severity is defined as minimum 3 scores on the HDRS. However, it should be noted that it is debatable and difficult to clarify whether 3 HDRS points is a clinically significant difference. We therefore further included the BDI-21 [41] as a subjective measure of depressive severity” (underlined and marked with bold in text).