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
Cover letter

In addition to the changes requested by the editorial board, we have made following changes to the manuscript:

Title page:
- We have changed the address for corresponding author to: Clinic for Affective Disorders, Department of Psychiatry, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
- We have deleted author Hanne Steenberg Nikolajsen from “Authors” and “Email addresses of co-authors”

Methods:

Study design
- We have changed the sentence “Further, plasma and whole blood BDNF…” to “Further, plasma and whole blood BDNF and inflammatory markers…”

Participants and screening
- We have changed “bipolar disorder in remission” to “bipolar disorder in partial or full remission” in line 2 and 10 of this section.
- We have changed “2” to “two”

Further outcome assessments: biomarkers of potential clinical effects
- In the section beginning with “It is known that Epo increases…” we have changed the sentence “It is known that Epo increase hippocampal BDNF and …” to “It is known that Epo increase hippocampal BDNF and nerve growth factor (NGF) and…” as well as the sentence “We will therefore investigate the effect of Epo on plasma and whole blood BDNF…” to “We will therefore investigate the effect of Epo on plasma and whole blood BDNF and NGF…”

Psychological tests
- We have changed “will be assessed” to “is assessed” in line 2

Equipment
- We have changed “will be employed” to “is employed” in line 1
- In line 5, we have changed “will be” to “are”
• In line 7, we have changed “will be” to “are”
• In line 11, we have changed “will be” to “are”

Statistical analyses
• We have deleted “Statistical Analysis System (SAS)”

Data management
• We have added “(CRF)” after “Case Record File”

Discussion

Current trial status
• We have changed the sentence “Status in March 2010 is that 15 participants...are complete for 6 participants” to the following: “Status in October 2010 is that 21 participants have been screened, enrolled and randomized. One patient has had to drop out after week 5 because of abnormal lab results. So far, data sets including all clinical variables and biomarkers are complete for 18 participants.”

Authors’ contributions

We have changed the first sentence from “KM and LVK have conceived of the study and written up the study protocol” to “KM, LVK and MV have written up the study protocol”

Acknowledgements

We have added the following sentence: “We thank nurses Hanne Steenberg Nikolajsen and Susanne Sander for their extensive practical help throughout the trial.”