Author’s response to reviews

Title: Rationale and study design of PROVHILO - a worldwide multicenter randomized controlled trial on protective ventilation during general anesthesia for open abdominal surgery

Authors:

Sabrine N T Hemmes (s.hemmes@amc.uva.nl)
Paolo Severgnini (paolo.severgnini@uninsubria.it)
Samir Jaber (s-jaber@chu-montpellier.fr)
Jaume Canet (jcanet.germanstrias@gencat.cat)
Hermann Wrigge (hermann.wrigge@medizin.uni-leipzig.de)
Michael Hiesmayr (michael.hiesmayr@meduniwien.ac.at)
Edda M Tschernko (edda.tschernko@meduniwien.ac.at)
Markus W Hollmann (m.w.hollmann@amc.uva.nl)
Jan M Binnekade (j.m.binnekade@amc.uva.nl)
Goran Hedenstierna (goran.hedenstierna@akademiska.se)
Christian Putensen (christian.putensen@ukb.uni-bonn.de)
Marcelo Gama de Abreu (mgabreu@aol.com)
Paolo Pelosi (ppelosi@hotmail.com)
Marcus J Schultz (m.j.schultz@amc.uva.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Changes in PROVHILO manuscript, 21-04-11

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Dear Editorial Team,

Thank you for your valuable suggestions to improve our manuscript. We have revised the paper on your suggested issues. Also during our final read-through, we made some small adjustments to the manuscript, all mentioned below.

1. Adjustment of author details to be identical in style and order in the manuscript and the submission system
2. Insertion of the following text: the “open lung strategy” (page 2; line 6)
3. Insertion of the following text: general anesthesia (page 4; line 10)
4. Insertion of the following text: (registry: age, gender, type of surgery) (page 5; line 16-17)
5. Adjustment of the reference on page 6; line 2 of see appendix I into see Table 2
6. Insertion of the following text: or decline to participate (page 6; line 9)
7. Replacement of induction of anesthesia for intubation (page 8; line 5)
8. Insertion of the following text: (e.g. de–saturation, hypotension during recruitment maneuver, need for vasoactive medication) (page 11; line 2-3)
9. Insertion of the following text: On day 90 hospital free-days are recorded (page 11; line 5)
10. Insertion of the following text: in the absence of other infectious focus (page 12; line 1-2)
11. Addition of the following abbreviations to the list of abbreviations (page 22):
   a. I:E - Inspiratory to Expiratory ratio
   b. PBW - Predicted Body Weight
   c. SpO2 - Oxyhemoglobin saturation by pulse-oximetry breathing air in supine position
   d. WBC – White Blood Cells