Author's response to reviews

Title: Between-centre differences and treatment effects in randomized controlled trials: A case study in traumatic brain injury

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
We would again like to thank the reviewer for her careful assessment of the paper. She pointed at some important, very careless mistakes. We addressed all comments below, and are pleased to hereby submit the second revised version of the manuscript. We hope you will decide to accept it for publication in Trials.
Yours sincerely, on behalf of the co-authors,
Hester Lingsma

Reviewer’s comments:

1. The between centre 95% range in Table 2. On page 11 and 12 the formula for the 95% range includes tau^2. From the estimated tau^2 in Table 2, I have tried to reproduce the 95% range. However, I do not come up with the same values as the authors do. I believe that some mis-labeling of tau^2 and tau has happened, since the 95% range quoted would appear to be based on a tau (i.e sqrt(0.447)) rather than tau^2 (i.e. 0.447).
   You are completely correct. We sincerely apologize for this careless mistake. It is corrected.

2. I believe that there may be a typing error in Appendix 1 equation 1, notation immediately below. I believe that j should refer to the centre and i to the patient.
   Again this is correct, we corrected the error.

3. Range of centre effects formula. Could the authors provide a reference for this 95% range formula.
   The reference (Timbie and Normand, Statist.Med 2008) is added.