Author's response to reviews

Title: The use of LiDCO based fluid management in patients undergoing hip fracture surgery under spinal anaesthesia: Neck of femur optimisation therapy - targeted stroke volume (NOTTS)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Professor Charlie Goldsmith
_Trials_

19th September 2011

Dear Professor Goldsmith,

Re: MS: 1012666617527515
The use of LiDCO based fluid management in patients undergoing hip fracture surgery under spinal anaesthesia: Neck of femur optimisation therapy - targeted stroke volume (NOTTS)

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. I have detailed our response below.

The replies seem sensible, except for point 6. (6. P 10, p 2. Again, the stratification should be used in the analyses reported here and will involve more than an elementary use of Fisher’s exact test and Chi-square and the Cox model. Software such as StatXact or LogXact may be needed instead of SPSS.) This one was not addressed in the replies from the authors, nor in the revised manuscript. I think the authors should be asked if they want to make that change as well.

We have amended the paragraph as follows.

_The secondary outcomes of complications, residence and place of discharge will be treated as categorical and differences between the groups will be examined using loglinear analysis. Mortality outcome will be analysed using Kaplan-Meier mortality curves and log rank tests._

We have discussed the analysis extensively with our medical statistician who feels that more complex analysis of the data is not necessary. The randomisation using two levels is simply to balance the groups in terms of high risk vs low risk. We are not using stratified sampling. Given the relatively small sample size, we do not intend to probe any further due to the risks of both type 1 and type 2 errors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Moppett (on behalf of the authors).