Author's response to reviews

Title: Standard abdominal wound edge protection with surgical dressings vs. coverage with a sterile circular polyethylene drape for prevention of surgical site infections. A patient and observer-blinded randomized controlled trial - BaFO

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Madame/Sir,

Please find below a detailed list of changes made to the protocol to address all of the reviewer’s comments.

Sincerely,

Andre Mihaljevic

1. P(age) 6, p(aragraph) 1, l(ine) 4. Insert [years] after [18].
   Answer: [years] was inserted

2. P 7, p 1, l 17. Replace [are by] by [will be].
   Answer: [are by] was replaced by [will be].

3. P 8, p 2, l 13. Insert [to] between [according] and [standard].
   Answer: [to] was inserted

4. P 9 , p 1, l 3, 9 and 10. Also P 11, p 4, l 11. The word [centre] and [center] do not seem to be used consistently. Also later in the paper it is also a problem since R(eference) 9, l 2 on P 25, l 2 uses [Centers] and P 24, l 2 uses [Centres]. These should be made consistent in the paper. A search and replace should be attempted to make these consistent. Also P 10, p 1, l 14, 18 and 20.
   Answer: As proposed a search and replace strategy was used to spell “centre” consistently in BE.

5. P 10, p 2, l 1. Replace [IIT] by [ITT], and the latter should also be entered on P 17.
   Answer: [IIT] was replaced by [ITT]

   Answer: [incidence] was replaced by [rate]

   Answer: The spelling error was corrected.

   Answer: It now reads [ANCOVA] in the manuscript.

9. P 19, l 4. Insert a space to read [90 cm].
   Answer: The space was inserted.

10. P 25, R 5, l 2. Insert (round brackets) around the language to read [(German)]. This should be at the end of l 3, and not on l 2.
    Answer: The reference now reads “Gastmeier P, Brunkhorst F, Schrappe M, Kern W, Geffers C. [How many nosocomial infections are avoidable?]. Dtsch Med Wochenschr 2010, May;135(3):91-93. (German).”
Answer: [cited 2012 Jan 15] was deleted in reference 47. We could not find it in reference 27.