Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nitrates and Bone Turnover [NABT]: trial to select the best nitrate preparation.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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Nitrates and Bone Turnover [NABT]: trial to select the best nitrates preparation
Roxana C Bucur, Lauren Reid, Celeste J Hamilton, Steven R Cummings and Sophie A Jamal

Please find below the response to reviewers comments

3. Editorial requests:
1) Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol articles. The title should follow the format “_________: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.”

We have changed the title as requested (page 1, 3).

Reviewer's report
Title: Nitrates and Bone Turnover [NABT]: trial to select the best nitrates preparation.

Version: 4 Date: 7 June 2013

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

1. Page 1, line 2, 3 and 4. Move the funding source and registration to the bottom of the page, provide the grant number, dates of registration and the date the first patient was randomized.

The comments were addressed.

2. P 1, l 5. Delete [.] after [MSc].

The comments were addressed.

3. P 1, items 1, 2, 3, and 5 all seem to be the same place so should use the same address and include the city as [Toronto ON].

The address is the same but the email address is different, so we felt that it is appropriate to have different numbers. The address is more complete now and it includes the street and postal code too.

4. P 1, l 4, l 1. Include [CA] at the end of l. The address could be made more complete.
The comments were addressed.

5. P 2, p(paragraph) 1, l 5. Replace [least] by [fewest]. Also P 3, p 6, l 2. Also P 9, p 5, l 11.

The comments were addressed.

6. P 3, p 3, l 5. Replace [incidence] by [number]. Incidence is a time related measure that goes from none disease to disease over the time interval. Also P 3, p 2, l 7. Also P 7, p 7, l 7. Also P 9, p 5, l 9. Also P 10, p 4, l 16. Also P 16, p 1, l 6.

The comments were addressed.

7. P 3, p 2, l 2 to 6. Provide a R(eference) for this claim.

The reference was provided (R 1)


The comments were addressed.

9. P 4, p 5, l 2. Rewrite as [… data [> 5 years] are …].

The comments were addressed.

10. P 6, p 2, l 4 to 7. Explain this notation. If they are meant to be mean and standard deviations, state it and avoid the use of the +/- between them as [mean, sd = 25, 2%].

The comments were addressed.

11. P 6, p 2, l 8. Replace [is] by [are].

The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.

13. P 6, p 6, l 1. Replace [average] by [mean].

The comments were addressed.

The comments were addressed.

15. P 7, p 1, l1. Insert [risk] between [fracture] and [was].

The comments were addressed.

16. P 7, p 2, l 1. Provide a R.

The reference was provided (R 1)

17. P 7, p 6, l 6 and 7. Make these rates rather than counts.

The comments were addressed.

18. P 7, p 7, l 1. Delete [had study].

The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.

20. P 8, p 1, l 19 and 20. Delete […] and published … Association…].

The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.

22. P 8, p 3, l 11. Add a [.] at the end of the l.

The comments were addressed.

23. P 9, p 1, l 4. Add a [.] at the end of the l.

The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.
26. P 10, p 5, l 2. Provide a R to the Block questionnaire.

Reference was provided (R 60)

27. P 11, p 4, l 1. Delete [in order] in front of [to] as the words are redundant in English. Also P 12, p 2, l 6.

The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.

29. P 12, p 1, l 4. Insert [it] between [as] and [is].

The comments were addressed.

30. P 12, p 3, l 7. Replace [this] by [these].

The comments were addressed.

31. P 12, p 4, l 5. Which markers and provide Rs.

The comments were addressed. Reference was provided (R 65)

32. P 13, p 1, l 1. Insert location.

Location was inserted (P 13, p 1, l 8)

33. P 13, p 2, l 2. Provide a R to the Helsinki declaration.

Reference was provided (R 71)

34. P 13, p 5. What software was used to compute the sample size?

The software used was STATA Version 10 (see information added on P 14, p 2, l 1).

35. P 14, p 2, l 2. Replace [parameters] by [variables].

The comments were addressed.

36. P 14, p 3. Have these people agreed to be listed in the paper. You have not included them as authors. Are they paid consultants?

N/A. Paragraph was deleted.

37. P 14, p 5, l 4. Rewrite as [ > 15%].
The comments were addressed.

38. P 15, p 1, l 11. Replace [50] by [100].

The comments were addressed.

39. P 15, p 2. Was stratification by centre considered?

Stratification by centres was considered but was not felt to be necessary as all interventions are taking place in one centre (Toronto, ON, Women’s College Hospital).

40. P 15, p 3, l 7. Insert [is] between [arrangement] and [similar].

The comments were addressed.

41. P 15, p 3, l 2. Rewrite as [trials. 2]].

The comments were addressed.

42. P 15, p 3, l 3. Insert a space between [turnover] and [and].

The comments were addressed.

43. P 15, p 4. Should this p be rewritten to include these people as authors and NOT co-applications?

N/A. Paragraph was deleted.

44. P 15, p 5, l 1. Delete one [.]. Also replace [significant] by [clinically important].

The comments were addressed.

45. P 15, p 6, l 1. Insert [the] between [as] and [population].

The comments were addressed.

46. P 15, p 6, l 7. Delete [s] to read [suggest].

The comments were addressed.

47. P 16, after p 4. Insert a list of all short forms about here.

List of abbreviations was added.

48. P 16, R 2 and 3, l 2. The author is [Badley], not [Bradley].
The comments were addressed.


The comments were addressed.

50. P 17, R 15. Trials likes to publish the first 30 authors before using et al. Also P 18, R 29.

The comments were addressed. See all authors in the reference (now R 16)

51. P 18, R 26, l 2. Include the volume number.

Volume and number included (now R 27)

52. P 21, R 63. Label as a PhD thesis.

The comments were addressed (now R 64).

53. P 21, R 69. Include the city and state of the publisher.

The comments were addressed (now R 72).


The comments were addressed.

Sincerely,

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