Title: Myocardial Infarction - Stress PRevention INTervention (MI-SPRINT) to reduce the incidence of posttraumatic stress after acute myocardial infarction through trauma-focused psychological counseling: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
From
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September 16, 2013

To
TRIALS Editors-in-Chief
Doug Altman
Curt Furberg
Jeremy Grimshaw
Peter Rothwell

RE: TRIALS / 2nd revision of MS: 3183853131030601 / Study protocol now entitled:
Myocardial Infarction – Stress PRevention INTervention (MI-SPRINT) to reduce the incidence of posttraumatic stress after acute myocardial infarction through trauma-focused psychological counseling: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

Dear Editors:

Thank you very much for your re-review of our above-referenced study protocol. We enclosed a point-by-point response to each of your criticisms. We highlighted all the changes that we made to the manuscript in red colour.

All authors meet author criteria. The manuscript has not been submitted or is not simultaneously being submitted elsewhere and no portion of the data has been or will be published in proceedings or transactions of meetings or symposium volumes. As already mentioned at the time when we submitted the first version of our manuscript, there is one potentially competing interest to be mentioned which is the fact that our co-author Dr. Herbert receives royalties for the self-help guide whose content served as the basis for our verum intervention tailored to reduce the probability of developing posttraumatic stress after myocardial infarction.

Please direct all correspondence to me at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

Roland von Känel, MD
(corresponding author, on behalf of all co-authors)
TRIALS / 2nd revision of MS: 3183853131030601 / Study protocol: MI-SPRINT (Myocardial Infarction - Stress PRevention INTervention): Study protocol of a randomized-controlled interventional trial to reduce the incidence of posttraumatic stress after acute myocardial infarction through trauma-focused psychological counseling

Now entitled:

Myocardial Infarction - Stress PRevention INTervention (MI-SPRINT) to reduce the incidence of posttraumatic stress after acute myocardial infarction through trauma-focused psychological counseling: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

Comments from the Editors

Comment 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.”

Response
We changed the title as follows to conform to journal style:
“Myocardial Infarction - Stress PRevention INTervention (MI-SPRINT) to reduce the incidence of posttraumatic stress after acute myocardial infarction through trauma-focused psychological counseling: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.”

Comment 2
Please include the name of the ethical body that approved your study in your ethical approval statement, we cannot accept 'the local ethical committee.'

Response
We added this information to the section “Ethics consideration” (p. 12):
“The ethics committee of the State of Bern, Switzerland, approved the study protocol.”

Comment 3
Please include a figure title and legend section after the reference list. The figures should not be included in the main body of the manuscript.

Response
We included a page with the title for Figure 1 and the legend to Figure 1. We also removed the previous legends to Tables 1 and 2 to this novel page.