Author's response to reviews

Title: Transversus Abdominis Plane (TAP) Block following Abdominally-Based Breast Reconstruction: A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol

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Author's response to reviews:

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Dear Trials Editorial Board:

Re: Response to Reviewers Comments

Thank you for reviewing the submitted study protocol. We have prepared a revision of the manuscript with reference to the instructions for authors http://www.trialsjournal.com/info/instructions/ and have addressed the following concerns:

Formatting changes

1. Please include the trial registration number at the end of your abstract. If your research article reports the results of a controlled health care intervention, please list your trial registry, along with the unique identifying number.

We have included the trial registration information and number at the end of the abstract.
2. As your research involves humans please include a statement of ethical approval in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate. Any experimental research on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration.

We have included a statement of ethics approval in the Methods section of the manuscript including the name of the institution and approval number.

3. Please mention each author individually in your Authors’ Contributions section.

We have revised the Authors’ Contributions section of the manuscript to mention each individual author contribution by the author initials. We have included a statement that all authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

4. Please upload the figures as separate files via the online submission system. They should not be included within the main manuscript document.

We have previously uploaded Figures 1 and 2 as separate files and have included Figure 3 as a separate file in the revised submission.

Ethics & Funding Documentation

Also, please note that before your manuscript can be sent to our Editorial Board for their initial consideration, you will need to provide us with copies of the original funding and ethics documentation. We would very much appreciate it if you could provide these in English, or provide translations to accompany the original documents.

We would like to confirm that we will email the following Ethics and Funding documentation to Rebecca in the Editorial Office.

1. Initial REB approval 2011
2. Recommended Health Canada Qualified Investigator form for Dr. Zhong
3. REB amendment approval
4. REB annual renewal 2012 and 2013
5. Funding agreement from the Plastic Surgery Foundation (PSF) 2011 and letter of extension of funding 2012
6. Funding agreement from the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPS) 2011
7. ClinicalTrials.gov trial registration confirmation

Thank you once again for considering our trials protocol for publication in Trials. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards,

Dr. Toni Zhong,