**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Study Design of a genotype-specific, randomized-controlled behavioral intervention to improve the neuroemotional outcome of cardiac surgery

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**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
We have made the formatting changes as requested:

We included a title page on the main manuscript as well as the abstract body and the keywords. The trial registration number will be provided before commencing with the study because the study design is under current consideration for funding by a major grant funding agency (the German DFG). The application procedure is a 2-stage process and our study design has been evaluated during the first stage of the application process by international reviewers and received very favorable scores and comments which resulted in an invitation to submit a full proposal by the DFG. The reviewers’ evaluations and comments have been now added in the part “additional files” for your information.

We will send you the ethical consideration as requested per mail as soon as possible.

Regardless of the outcome of the final evaluation of the project by the funding agency which will probably take several more months, we believe that our study design might be of interest for the readership of your journal.

Sincerely,

Daniela Hauer

First author