Author's response to reviews

Title: Rationale and study design of PROVAR - A randomized controlled trial on the effects of variable versus conventional lung protective mechanical ventilation during open abdominal surgery

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Dear Dr. Davis,

Thank you for taking time in reviewing and handling our manuscript. The comments of the Reviewers allowed us to improve the manuscript considerably. Changes in the revised manuscript are marked in RED, and the point-by-point answers to the requests and questions from the Reviewers are provided below.

We hope that the revised version will fulfill the criteria for acceptance of our manuscript for publication in TRIALS.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Spieth