Author's response to reviews

Title: An efficacy and mechanism evaluation study of Levosimendan for the Prevention of Acute oRgan Dysfunction in Sepsis (LeoPARDS): protocol for a randomised controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Profs Altman, Furberg and Grimshaw

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript entitled “An efficacy and mechanism evaluation study of Levosimendan for the Prevention of Acute oRgan Dysfunction in Sepsis (LeoPARDS): protocol for a randomised controlled trial”. We have made all the revisions requested and enclose an updated version with changes highlighted using “track changes”. A point-by-point response is below:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

• Three to 10 key words chosen according to the list of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) provided by the Index Medicus, must be provided. I suggest adding key words like “critical care” and “randomises controlled trial”.

We had added these additional keywords. The list of MESH heading are now:

- Levosimendan;
- Shock, Septic;
- Multiple Organ Failure;
- Intensive Care;
- Critical Care;
- Randomized Controlled Trial.

References.

• Reference 11. – Must be updated (volume and pages are missing).
• Reference 42 – Must be updated.

We have updated the references. For reference 7 we have added the missing volume and page numbers (reference 11 appears OK). Reference 42 is currently only available online, rather than in print. We have added the DOI number.

Illustrations and figures.

• The legend of figure a must include the definitions of all acronyms used (ICU, CCMDS, SOFA)

We have added definitions for all abbreviations in the legends for both figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 – LeoPARDS proposed trial flow diagram

ICU= Intensive Care Unit. SOFA= Serial Organ Failure Assessment. CCMDS= Critical Care Minimum Data Set,

Figure 2 – LeoPARDS blinded study drug infusion management guideline

HR= Heart Rate. MAP= Mean Arterial Pressure
Please mention each author individually in your Authors’ Contributions section. We have added the contribution of each author individually.

Also the trial funder has requested some minor changes to the wording when we acknowledged their funding support in the Acknowledgement section. We hope this is OK.

Thank you for considering our revised manuscript for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anthony Gordon