Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of remote ischemic preconditioning preceding coronary artery bypass grafting on inducing neuroprotection (RIPCAGE): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial [NCT02177981]

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Version: 3
Date: 28 September 2014

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Comment 1. Numbers of inflations should be mentioned in the abstract.
Response 1. The number of inflations has now been clearly identified in the abstract.

Comment 2. CABG should be spelled out in the first sentence in the background part (page 5)
Response 2. The abbreviation CABG has been spelled out when first used in the text (coronary artery bypass grafting)

Comment 3. Page 6 sentence one, do you mean Troponin T? (Not troponin I)
Response 3. The serum marker we will use is troponin T. This has been corrected in the revised manuscript.

Comment 4. Why is 3 inflations chosen? Could be pointed out on page 9 (Intervention and control protocols)
been clearly stated in the revision.

Comment 5. When will the neurocognitive test be made? Has to be mentioned in page 10
Response 5. The sentence “Neurocognitive testing will be performed preoperatively and on postoperative day 7.” has been inserted into the methods section, as suggested by the reviewer.

Comment 6. More detailed description of the MRI sequences in table 2. Ex: which kind of ischemia do you see in the different sequences (DWI, FLAIR).
Response

Editorial requests:
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 1.
The title has been changed in accordance to the editorial request.

2. Please include the date your study was registered with the trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.
Response 2.
The date our study was registered has been noted at the end of the abstract (with the trial registration number).

3. Please include the email addresses of all authors on the title page.
Response 3.
The title page now includes the email addresses of all authors.