Author's response to reviews

Title: Retrospective Review of the Use and Costs of Routine Chest X rays in a Trauma Setting

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Version: 2 Date: 22 September 2012

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Dear Editors,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for our revisions. As you may remember, the requested revisions were rather extensive, and necessitated a re-review of the actual charts in some cases. With respect to the requested revisions:

The first sentence was deleted, as requested, and the objective of characterizing CXR in comparison to TCT was also added, as requested. Additionally, I clarified that the key unit of observation was the individual injury, and carried this uniformly throughout the manuscript. I improved the statistics section, and added a table to better delineate the statistical observations. This table (table 4) is extensive and looks at the various requested parameters for each injury considered.

Additionally, I improved the flow chart that delineated patient selection. Instead of expanding table 1, I added another table which included the ISS for each mechanism of injury and the demographic breakdown, I did not include hemodynamic parameters, as requested, because all patients were hemodynamically normal or were excluded. I strengthened the wording of this in the methods and discussion sections. Finally, I discussed intangible costs a bit as requested. This was not intended as a comparison of TCT to CXR for the purposes of replacing CXR with TCT; instead it was intended as a comparison of CXR and TCT for the purposes of eliminating one study when the second will occur anyway. I clarified that sentiment in the discussion also.

Again, thank you for your consideration of our manuscript, and please accept my apologies for our delay.

James Feeney, MD, FACS