Author's response to reviews

Title: Protocol for a Systematic Review and Individual Patient Meta-Analysis of Benefit of So-Called Lung-Protective Ventilation-Settings in Patients Under General Anesthesia for Surgery

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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“PROTOCOL FOR A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND INDIVIDUAL PATIENT DATA META-ANALYSIS OF BENEFIT OF SO–CALLED LUNG–PROTECTIVE VENTILATION–SETTINGS IN PATIENTS UNDER GENERAL ANESTHESIA FOR SURGERY”

November 06, 2013

Dear editor,

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised version of the above-mentioned manuscript.

The comments of the Editors and Reviewers were helpful in improving the manuscript. A point-to-point reply to the reviewer’s comments follows below.

Kind regards, looking forward to your response,

Ary Serpa Neto

Marcus J. Schultz
REVIEWER #1

01. BIAS

As suggested by the reviewer we changed the sentence to a better one:

“It is expected to obtain at least 90% or more of individuals analyzed in the studies identified in the search strategy. With this number of patients will be possible to avoid the bias due to selective availability of study data.”

02. COMPLETENESS OF DATA

As suggested by the reviewer we changed the sentence to a better one:

“…2) middle of the surgery, defined as the parameters measured closest to the middle of the procedure (total time of procedure divided by two); and…”

03. BACKGROUND

As suggested by the reviewer we changed the sentence:

“With the use of individual patient data, it may be possible to isolate the real effect of tidal volume from those of PEEP.”