Author's response to reviews

Title: No high level evidence to support the use of oral H1 antihistamines as monotherapy for eczema: A summary of a Cochrane systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professors Moher, Shekkele and Stewart,

Re: e-mail 06-01-2014 of Kerry Kwan: “Oral H1 antihistamines as monotherapy for eczema: A summary of a Cochrane review” of the authors: Esther van Zuuren, Christian Apfelbacher, Zbys Fedorowicz, Aldrin Jupiter, Uwe Matterne and Elke Weisshaar.

Herewith our replies to the comments of the referees and editorial requests, we have used track changes in the text to indicate the differences.

Reply to comments Dr Fleischer: We thank him for the kind and supportive words, and fully agree with his point of view that there appears to be inadequate support for the apparently wide prescription of oral H1 antihistamines for atopic eczema, as we have clearly stated in our manuscript.

Reply to comments Dr Bamford: We thank the reviewer for sharing his point of view, we have changed the title into “No high level evidence to support the use of oral H1 antihistamines as monotherapy for eczema: A summary of a Cochrane systematic review. Furthermore, we have added further text in the Conclusion to emphasize why the conclusions of this review are pertinent and significant.

Regarding comments of Editor: We have rerun the search strategy on 7-1-2014 and retrieved 348 additional references, but none met our inclusion criteria, this is been added in the review.

Reply to editorial requests:

1) We acknowledged Liz Doney, Trials Search Co-ordinator of Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, Cochrane Skin Group, of the University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK for rerunning the searches for us. We added that we received no funding.

2) We have added the figure and two tables after the references of the manuscript, with the file extension.

Yours sincerely,

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