Author's response to reviews

Title: Palonosetron versus ondansetron as rescue medication for postoperative nausea and vomiting: a randomized, multicenter, open-label study

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Author's response to reviews:

RE: 1005335647116469, revision 2

Response to editor’s comments:

1) To the comment of the referee: Abstract: in the conclusion paragraph of the abstract, the authors reported they found a trend for emesis. However, they did not specify the drug for which the trend was observed. Please, specify, the authors replied: This has been clarified. However, in the sentence There was a trend toward less emesis in the >0-72 h time period the drug for which the trend was observed is still not reported. Please, specify.

RESPONSE: We have added “favoring palonosetron” to the end of the sentence.

2) In the revised version (page 12) the authors modified the text according to the comments of the referees: Contrary to our estimate that 100 patients per treatment group would be appropriate, a post hoc power analysis showed that approximately 540 patients actually would be needed per arm to demonstrate a statistically significant difference in the primary endpoint with the results seen here (25.0% vs 18.0%). This sentence is formally correct but highlights that the number of patients included in this study is not adequate. Thus, the authors should more clearly explain in the text (after this sentence) on which basis the analysis of a lower number of patients should be justified.

RESPONSE: We have added the statement: “However, at the time, the study was carried out assuming a much larger treatment difference between palonosetron and ondansetron arms.”

3) Please, read very carefully text and tables. Sometimes names of authors included in the reference list are reported together with numbers in the text as well as other unintelligible information in the rescue setting.
RESPONSE: These annotations have been deleted.