Author’s response to reviews

Title: Leg elevation decreases the incidence of post-spinal hypotension in cesarean section: a randomized controlled trial

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1. Please kindly include a Title in your main manuscript file. The title page should:
   • present a title that includes, if appropriate, the study design e.g.: "A versus B in the treatment of C: a randomized controlled trial", "X is a risk factor for Y: a case control study", "What is the impact of factor X on subject Y: A systematic review"
   • or for non-clinical or non-research studies a description of what the article reports
   • list the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors•if a collaboration group should be listed as an author, please list the Group name as an author. If you would like the names of the individual members of the Group to be searchable through their individual PubMed records, please include this information in the “Acknowledgements” section in accordance with the instructions below
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The title was added
2. We cannot find PACTR201510001295348 through Internet, could you please kindly provide a link to this trial. Also please kindly include the Date for registration.

The link: http://www.pactr.org/ATMWeb/appmanager/atm/atmregistry?_nfpb=true&_windowLabel=BasicSearchUpdateController_1&BasicSearchUpdateController_1_actionOverride=%2Fpageflows%2Ftrial%2FadvancedSearchUpdate%2FviewTrail&BasicSearchUpdateController_1id=1295

The date of registration was 5/10/2015. Kindly note that the title was changed to leg elevation instead of leg raising based on reviewers' comments.

3. A written informed consent was obtained from participants before inclusion. Should it be

Written informed consents were obtained...

Corrected (methods, paragraph 1, line 4 , page 5 )

4. For section "Ethical approval and consent to participate:" , the statement should be a complete sentence, please also indicate that "Written informed consents were obtained..."

The sentence was completed and the other statement was added. (declarations ,line 5 , page 13 )

5. Please kindly provide the legends of all figures in a "Figure legends" section following "Reference" section.

Figure legend section was added. (Page 17)

6. Please kindly provide us the final manuscript without track changes.

Track changes were removed

Reviewer reports:

Frederic Mercier (Reviewer 2):
The authors have performed a very meticulous and adequate review of their manuscript, according to the numerous points I had raised and I congratulate them for doing this.

There is only one point that could be still improved: as I mentioned in my first Review of the initial article, the authors used a RL pre-load (10 ml/kg) whereas this is ineffective and clearly no longer recommended. The authors have taken my objection into account by modifying the last paragraph of their Discussion section and acknowledging this study limitation.

However, in the first sentence of this paragraph, they wrote:

"Another limitation was the use of crystalloid preloading protocol although many recent recommendations suggested the use of crystalloid or colloid co-loading regimens [1].

This is not completely accurate. Indeed, as I mentioned in my first Review "Most experts recommend using a crystalloid co-load or a colloid PRE-load (Ngan Kee, Curr Opin Anaesthesiol 2010 - Mercier, Curr Opin Anaesthesiol 2012 - Mercier Br J Anaesth 2014). In other words, co-loading is recommended (instead of pre-loading) when crystalloids are used. Whereas when considering colloids, BOTH pre-loading and co-loading are effective to reducing the incidence of hypotension (in addition to vasopressor use) ; in fact, colloid pre-loading might even be slightly more effective than colloid co-loading (Mercier FJ, Anesth Analg 2011).

I would therefore suggest the authors to re-formulate this first sentence by writing instead: "Another limitation was the use of crystalloid pre-loading protocol although many recent recommendations suggested the use of crystalloid co-loading, colloid pre-loading or colloid co-loading regimens [1]."

I also suggest to further support this statement by adding as reference the Editorial where this is specifically explain into details (Mercier FJ, Anesth Analg 2011) ± another reference quoting the largest RCT (the CAESAR trial) that have examined the use of colloid pre-loading combined with vasopressor prophylaxis (Mercier FJ et al., Br J Anaesth 2014).

The sentence was reformulated and the references were added. (discussion , paragraph 2 , line 1, page 12)