**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Monitoring of argatroban and lepirudin anticoagulation in critically ill patients by conventional laboratory parameters and rotational thromboelastometry - a prospectively controlled randomized double-blind clinical trial

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Monitoring of argatroban and lepirudin anticoagulation in critically ill patients by conventional laboratory parameters and rotational thromboelastometry - a prospectively controlled randomized double-blind clinical trial Martin Beiderlinden; Patrick Werner; Astrid Bahlmann; Johann Kemper; Tobias Brezina; Maximilian Schaefer; Klaus Goerlinger; Holger Seidel; Peter Kienbaum; Tanja Meyer-Treschan BMC Anesthesiology
Dear Dr. Bartels,

We thank you for your time and effort spent to further improve our manuscript "Monitoring of argatroban and lepirudin anticoagulation in critically ill patients by conventional laboratory parameters and rotational thromboelastometry - a prospectively controlled randomized double-blind clinical trial" (BANE-D-17-00266).

We have revised our manuscript according to your comments.

A detailed step-by-step response is given below; all changes to the manuscript are highlighted in the revised version.

We would be very happy, if the revised version would be considered suitable for publication in BMC Anesthesiology.

On behalf of all authors,

With best wishes,

Tanja Meyer-Treschan

Editor Comments:

Thank you for providing this thorough revision of your manuscript.

I would be glad to accept your paper, pending modification of two issues:

1. In the conclusion of the abstract you state: "In critically ill patients, TT and ROTEM parameters provide better correlation to argatroban and lepirudin plasma concentrations than aPTT. Critical care providers should be aware of these results."

You are reporting the results of sub-study that included 35 patients. Please consider toning down your conclusion, e.g. by stating "In critically ill patients, TT and ROTEM parameters may provide better...". Alternatively pre-empt this conclusion with: In a cohort of 35 critical ill patients, TT and ROTEM parameters provided...
In reply: We changed the sentence accordingly to “may provide better…” in the revised version.

Please remove the notion "Critical care providers should be aware of these results". Although your study is interesting and though-provoking, it may not become a landmark paper that all critical care providers need to be aware of. Many centers do not even have access to TT and ROTEM.

In reply: Done.

2. Figures 5 and 6: Please change the presentation and analyses of these results from correlations to Bland Altman plots. Adjust the results section accordingly. Please refer to PMID: 2868172 for the limitations of using correlation coefficients in this context.

In reply: Done. The revised version of the manuscript now contains figure 6, displaying Bland Altman plots.