Author’s response to reviews

Title: Hypoxia and hypotension in patients intubated by physician staffed helicopter emergency medical services - a prospective observational multi-centre study

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Dear Editor

We wish to express our sincerest appreciation towards you and your expert reviewers for your hard work and valuable comments towards our manuscript.
We have revised the manuscript according to your comments, and the changes made are written in bold in the manuscript. We have also indicated where the amendments are located (section, page, line).

We hope you find the manuscript acceptable.

Yours sincerely

The authors

Comments to Editor:

1. Abstract & main objective statement - edit to state 'the primary aim was to describe the incidence of prehospital hypoxia and hypotension in trauma and non-trauma patients RECEIVING tracheal intubation by physician-staffed EMS.’ Just to be clear that is who the study population is (those who require it is a broader group, some of who are excluded from this study).

Response: We agree with the editor, and have reprased the sentences according to the comment. (Abstract, page 3, line 59 and 68; and Results, page 9, line 220).

2. Table 1 - add p-values for the differences in characteristics between the study groups in the same way it is presented in tables 2 and 3

Response: We have inserted p-values in table 1 as suggested for the main groups of characteristics. P-values have not been inserted for sub-groups as these may be mutually exclusive, e.g. male versus female sex (Table 1, page 25).
3. Figure 1 - caption should be changed to: Flow chart of study population. 1265 non-cardiac arrest patients that received prehospital tracheal intubation were included.

Response: We agree, and have changed the caption according to the comment. (Figure Legends, page 29, line 720).

4. The rest of the caption is not needed. Be sure to include SAD and CPAP in list of acronyms

Response: We have adjusted the caption as suggested (Figure Legends, page 29, line 720). SAD and CPAP are included in the list of abbreviations (List, page 16, line 417 and 418).

5. Methods, Results & Figure 2 - the methods describe the predicted means analysis, but this is not included in the results text. Either include there (& briefly in abstract) or remove from this paper.

Response: We have included ”predicted means” in the text. (Abstract, page 3, line 69; and Results, page 9 and 10, lines 230, 232, 233, 237, 243 and 246).

6. Limitations - add a statement that this study inclusion was limited to patients who received TI. Those patients for whom TI was attempted but failed and SAD provided were excluded. The data was re-analyzed with these patients included and the results were the same.

Response: We have added the statement as suggested (Limitations, page 15, line 383).
7. While commonly used, I don't think 'prehospitally' is a proper word that should be published? I will leave this to your discretion whether to edit out or not.

Response: We apologize for not recognizing this before, and have replaced ”pre-hospitally” with ”in the pre-hospital setting” (Abstract, page 4, line 82 and Conclusions, page 15, line 402).