Author’s response to reviews

Title: Ursodeoxycholic acid for the Prevention of symptomatic Gallstone disease after baRiAtric surgery: study protocol for a ranDomizEd controlled trial (UPGRADE trial)

Authors:

Thomas Boerlage (thomas.boerlage@slz.nl)
Sylke Haal (sylke.haal@slz.nl)
Maurits de Brauw (Maurits.deBrauw@slz.nl)
Yair Acherman (Yair.acherman@slz.nl)
Sjoerd Bruin (Sjoerd.bruin@slz.nl)
Arnold van de Laar (Arnold.vandelaar@slz.nl)
Daan Moes (Daan.moes@slz.nl)
Bart van Wagensveld (B.vanwagensveld@olvg.nl)
Claire de Vries (c.e.e.devries@olvg.nl)
Ruben van Veen (r.n.vanveen@olvg.nl)
Ruben Schouten (R.schouten@mcgroep.com)
Marcel Dijkgraaf (M.g.dijkgraaf@amc.uva.nl)
Paul Fockens (P.fockens@amc.uva.nl)
Victor Gerdes (Victor.gerdes@slz.nl)
Rogier Voermans (R.p.voermans@amc.uva.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

Please find enclosed our paper entitled ‘Ursodeoxycholic acid for the prevention of symptomatic gallstone disease after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial (UPGRADE trial)’ to be considered for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.
This paper described the study protocol for a multicentre randomized controlled trial. Gallstone prophylaxis after bariatric surgery has long been subject of debate. There is currently no consensus regarding the use of ursodeoxycholic acid, mainly due to the lack of high-level evidence. This trial was designed to provide definite evidence regarding ursodeoxycholic acid to prevent gallstones after bariatric surgery. The trial is currently ongoing, enrollment of participants started in January 2017 and will not be finished before 2018. No other articles concerning this trial have been submitted to, or published in, any journal.

The trial is funded by a grant from ZonMW (The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) and has undergone peer-review in the course of this grant application. The approval letters by the funding body and the ethical committee have been e-mailed to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

This manuscript describes original work and is not under consideration by any other journal. All authors approved the manuscript and this submission.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Boerlage, on behalf of all authors