Author’s response to reviews

Title: Study protocol for a multicenter randomized controlled trial to compare the efficacy of end-ischemic dual hypothermic oxygenated machine perfusion with static cold storage in preventing non-anastomotic biliary strictures after transplantation of liver grafts donated after circulatory death: DHOPE-DCD Trial

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Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Editors,

In response to the decision letter of November 10th, we have addressed the following points:

1. We have sent the documents of the ethics committees of the participating centres as attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. We are in the process of acquiring approval of the ethics committee in Birmingham and London King’s College Hospital. Therefore, we cannot send you documents for those two trial sites.

2. We confirm the study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

3. We have sent all the proof of funding for this study protocol as attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com on September 9th. We do not understand why the document ‘DHOPE Addendum signed 26th June 2017’ does not qualify as a proof of funding. This document should be considered as an addendum to the document ‘UMCG DHOPE Agreement - 17th July 2015’ in which the deadline for the agreement is extended.

4. We confirm that the study status is still ‘on-going’ as we are still including patients.

5. We confirm that no results of this study have been published or submitted to any journal.
6. The manuscript has not been revised after the resubmission dating September 9th.

We hope these responses adequately addresses your concerns and we hope the manuscript is suitable for publication.

On behalf of all co-authors

Sincerely yours,

Rianne van Rijn, MD  Robert J. Porte, MD, PhD

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