Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of citrate dialysate on intradialytic heparin dose in haemodialysis patients: study design of a randomised controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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BMC Nephrology
Editorial Review Board

Dear BMC Editors:

Re: MS: 2110942054150428
“The effect of citrate dialysate on intradialytic heparin dose in haemodialysis patients: study design of a randomized controlled trial”

Thank you for accepting our manuscript. As requested, editorial changes have been made. An itemized summary of the requested modifications are provided in bold below, followed by our responses.

1. Funding

In an Acknowledgements section, please can you provide detail that your study was funded by the University of Calgary Division of Nephrology.

We have added an Acknowledgements section to our manuscript which clearly states that our study was funded by the Division of Nephrology at the University of Calgary.

2. General Query

Why was low-molecular weight heparin, which is widely used, not considered?

Unfractionated heparin is the most commonly used anticoagulant for hemodialysis in Canada. The standard of care at our institution is to use unfractionated heparin. Given the wide readership of your journal, we have clarified this in both the Background and Methods sections of our manuscript.

Background: “In North America, unfractionated heparin is the most common anticoagulant used to prevent clotting during HD.”

Methods: “This randomised crossover clinical trial is performed within three community HD units in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where unfractionated heparin is used for standard intradialytic anticoagulation.”

Thank you again for accepting our manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. MacRae MSc, MD FRCPC
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