**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** A novel citrate-based protocol versus heparin anticoagulation for sustained low-efficiency dialysis in the ICU: safety, efficacy, and cost

**Authors:**

Ming Wen (Ming.Wen@mri.tum.de; wenming404@hotmail.com)

Claudius Küchle (Claudius.Kuechle@mri.tum.de)

Dominik Steubl (dominik.steubl@lrz.tum.de)

Uwe Heemann (Uwe.Heemann@mri.tum.de)

Yana Suttmann (yana.suttmann@googlemail.com)

Susanne Angermann (Susanne.Angermann@mri.tum.de)

Stephan Kemmner (stephan.kemmner@tum.de)

Lisa Rehbhn (emmendeuse@yahoo.de)

Monika Huber (die.huber.monika@gmail.com)

Christine Hauser (christine.m.hauser@gmail.com)

Christoph Schmaderer (christoph.schmaderer@lrz.tum.de)

Anna-Lena Reichelt (anna-lena.hasenau@gmx.de)

Robin Satanovskji (Robinsat@gmx.de)

Bernhard Haller (bernhard.haller@tum.de)

Lutz Renders (lutz.renders@lrz.tum.de)

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your letter and for the comments concerning our manuscript entitled “A novel citrate-based protocol versus heparin anticoagulation for sustained low-efficiency dialysis in the ICU: safety, efficacy, and cost” (BNEP-D-17-00101).
We have carefully revised the manuscript, and would like to re-submit it for your consideration.

Our responses are given in a point-by-point manner below. We hope the revised version is now suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Ming Wen, MD

Dept. of Nephrology, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technische Universität München, Ismaninger Straße 22, 81675 München, Germany
Phone: 0049 89 4140 5351
Fax: 0049 89 4140 4817
Email: ming.wen@mri.tum.de

1. Comment 1:

“Authors' contributions

The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section.

......
Please identify each author using their full initials and state their specific contribution. For example: "AB - study conception and design and wrote the manuscript...". If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors, for example, by adding their middle name initial"

Response:

We have re-written this part and specified the individual contributions of all authors:

MW developed the scientific concept, analyzed data and wrote the manuscript. CK participated in the research design and development of the methodological approach, and contributed to interpreting data, as well as drafting the article.

DS and UH have made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work. YS, SA, SK, LR, MH, CH, CS, ALR, RS contributed to analysis and interpretation of data. BH supervised the statistical analysis. LRS contributed to conception and final approval of the manuscript.

All authors have approved the final version of the manuscript.
2. Comment 2:

“Consent to participate

a) In the Ethics approval and consent to participate statement, in the Declarations, we note that you have stated: "All necessary consent from patients involved in the study was obtained from the patient or legal guardian at the admission to the hospital". We note that all study participants are over the age of 16, please clarify why consent was obtained from the patients' legal guardians. Patients which are over the age of 16 are able to consent to participate in research studies themselves.

b) Please clarify in the Ethics approval and consent to participate statement, in the Declarations, whether you obtained written/verbal consent to participate. If verbal consent was obtained, please clearly state the reason or if this was approved by the ethics committee please clearly state the institution/committee that approved the waiver”

Response:

a) Several patients were incapable of providing consent due to an acute (i.e. loss of consciousness or patients on mechanical ventilation) or chronic illness (i.e. dementia). In these cases, written consent was obtained from the legal guardian.

b) We only obtained written consents to participate. No verbal consent was obtained.

The following text has been deleted:

“All necessary consent from patients involved in the study was obtained from the patient or legal guardian at the admission to the hospital.”

The following texts have been added:

“All necessary written consent was obtained from the patients at the admission to the hospital. If patients were incapable of providing consent due to an acute or chronic illness, written consent was obtained from legal guardian.”

3. Comment 3:

“3. Clean copy

At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.”
Response:

We checked all the submission stages, but did not find this stage. We added a clean version as a second manuscript (“Manuscript-Clean”).

We apologize for the inconvenience.