Author's response to reviews

Title: Overview and evaluation of 15 years of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease surveillance in Belgium, 1998-2012.

Authors:

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Version: 5
Date: 12 November 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

On behalf of all co-authors, I have the pleasure to resubmit the revised version of the manuscript “Overview and evaluation of 15 years of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease surveillance in Belgium, 1998-2012” for publication in BMC Neurology.

Please find the response to the concern raised by the editor at the end of this letter.

We sincerely hope that this revised manuscript will be accepted for publication in BMC Neurology.

Yours sincerely,
Amber Litzroth, Patrick Cras, Bart De Vil, Sophie Quoilin
Editorial request:

1. Requesting Ethics statement:
Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

**Please include the ethics committee statement in the Method section of the main manuscript.**

Added to the methods section of the manuscript lines 159-162:

“Ethics committee statement

The Ethics Committee of the Antwerp University Hospital reviewed the study and granted a waiver of informed consent, as the date are collected within the context of health surveillance as requested by European legislation.”
Diagnostic criteria CJD based on the Rotterdam criteria and the UK criteria. Annual suspect CJD cases by way of capture by the Belgian CJD surveillance.

Date: 27/10/2015  
Our reference: EC/PC/cwv2015.050  
Contact: Anniek Leeraert/Annelies Van Looy  
ethisch.comite@uz.be

Dear Colleague,

With regards to the present study, the Ethics Committee of the Antwerp University Hospital concludes that a waiver of informed consent is granted, as the data are collected within the context of health surveillance as requested by European legislation."

Kind regards

Prof. dr. G. Ieven  
Vice-Chairman Ethics Committee