Title: Treatment strategies in colorectal cancer patients with initially unresectable liver-only metastases, the randomised phase 3 CAIRO5 study of the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group (DCCG)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor McKeage,

We have explained the details of our funding for the study in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript according to the editorial request, and hereby answer your questions:

1: We were asked to forward copies of all ethical approval and funding documents. These documents have been send as email attachments to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. If you have additional questions according these documents I will be happy to answer them.

2: Roche has awarded an unrestricted scientific grant for our study, which should be considered as commercial funding. Roche has not been involved in the design of the study, and has not peer reviewed the study. We have also applied for a grant at the Dutch Cancer Foundation (KWF), the Dutch Cancer Foundation did peer-review our study protocol. The grant application is currently being assessed by the Dutch Cancer Foundation.

3: CAIRO5 is open for patient enrollment since July. At this moment four hospitals in the Netherlands are open and three patients have been randomised. Data collection has just been started and it is expected to take another 4 years to register and randomise all 640 patients. An additional 2 years are needed to collect all the data for follow up. Almost a total of 60 hospitals, participating in the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group (DCCG), are in the process of opening their centre for patient enrollment.

4: We have not published any results of this study.

Thank you very much for considering this paper for publication in BMC cancer.

Yours sincerely,

Drs. Joost Huiskens, and prof.dr. Cornelis Punt, on behalf of all authors.