Author’s response to reviews

Title: Continuous intraoperative monitoring of pelvic autonomic nerves during TME to prevent urogenital and anorectal dysfunction in rectal cancer patients (NEUROS): a randomized controlled trial

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Point by Point Reply R2

1. Ethical Consent:

If your article is a prospective study involving human participants then your article should include a statement detailing consent for participation.

If individual clinical data is presented in your article, then you must clarify whether consent for publication of these data was obtained.

- According to the reviewers’ suggestion we have included a statement under the section “Ethical considerations, General considerations”. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients included in this study. As this is a study protocol no clinical data of individual patients is presented in this paper.
2. Availability of supporting data:

BioMed Central strongly encourages all data sets on which the conclusions of the paper rely be either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main papers or additional supporting files, in machine-readable format whenever possible. Authors must include an Availability of Data and Materials section in their article detailing where the data supporting their findings can be found. The Accession Numbers of any nucleic acid sequences, protein sequences or atomic coordinates cited in the manuscript must be provided and include the corresponding database name.

- The access to the confident patient information may be granted only to the governmental bodies and authorized representatives of the trial sponsor (clinical monitors). Only patients who explicit consented to these provisions will be enrolled in the clinical trial. The name of the subjects and other confidential information are subject to medical professional secrecy and the regulations of the applicable local data protection regulations. During the clinical trial, subjects will be identified by means of a unique individual identification code (pseudonym). The final trial report, public trial registers as well as scientific publications will solely contain anonymized statistical data. An “Availability of Data and Materials” section has been added.

3. Authors Contributions:

Your 'Authors Contributions' section must detail the individual contribution for each individual author listed on your manuscript.

- An authors’ contribution section is included

4. - Ethics - Please revise the ethics section of your manuscript to include the full names of all the ethics committees and bodies that approved your study. We recommend the following format: “This study was approved by the ethics committee of [xxx] Hospital [or University].” If more than five ethics committees approved your study, you may wish to list the names of the committees in an additional file.

- The section Ethical considerations, General considerations has been rearranged. Full names of the ethics committees and bodies that approved the study were included.

5. - Please include a SPIRIT checklist and flow diagram

- We have submitted an additional SPIRIT checklist as desired. According to your suggestions figure 1 was replaced by a flow diagram.

All changes in the manuscript are highlighted in yellow.

Thank you very much.
With kind regards

Werner Kneist