Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy versus palliative systemic chemotherapy in stomach cancer patients with peritoneal dissemination, the study protocol of a multicentre randomised controlled trial (PERISCOPE II)

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Dear editor,

Thanks for revising our manuscript. Please find the changes we made to the manuscript below.

1- Could you please clarify whether the ethical approval you provided covers all the study sites and send evidence of these approvals to the following email address: BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. We kindly ask you to provide the original and the translated copy for all documents. In addition, we kindly ask you to re-send the funding proof with the translation - the only document where the translation was found within the document comments was the Ethics approval from Antoni Van Leeuwenhoek Nederlands Kanker Institute.

All relevant documentation has been send to BMCserieseditorial@biomedcentral.com.

2- We note that the SPIRIT checklist has some points that are not presented in the manuscript - for example the recruitment details and study timeline. Please, provide this information in the manuscript. This is so your methodology can be fully evaluated and utilised.

Additional changes have been made to the manuscript to ensure all relevant SPIRIT points are included. These changes include, a more substantial study time line and additional information about responsibilities of involved parties.

3- Please, include the word 'protocol' in the title so the reader can easily identify the manuscript as a Study Protocol.

The word protocol has been added.
4- Please revise the manuscript sections according to our submission guidelines (https://bmccancer.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol):

Sections have been revised

5- Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

A statement regarding Authors’ contribution has been added.

6- The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analysing data. Can you please confirm the current stage of your research?

Could you also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol?

The study is ongoing, as we now stated on page 1 (title page) of the manuscript. There are currently no other manuscripts under submission based on this protocol.

Yours sincerely,

Willem Koemans