Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Efficacy of initial ventilation strategy for adult immunocompromised patients with severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure: study protocol for a multicentre randomized controlled trial (VENIM)

Authors:
Tao Wang (wangtao_dr@sina.com)
Gang Liu (pumcliugang@163.com)
Kun He (hk6290418@163.com)
Xin Lu (luxin61@126.com)
Xianquan Liang (Liangxianquan9699@126.com)
Meng Wang (w7777m@163.com)
Jun Ke (68223384@qq.com)
Rong Zhu (seth_zhu@163.com)
Zongru Li (lizongru_xiehe@163.com)
Feng Chen (cf9066@126.com)
Qingming Lin (1621112336@qq.com)
Chuanyun Qian (qianchuanyun@126.com)
Bo Li (147820533@qq.com)
Jie Wei (469572958@qq.com)
Jingjun Lv (925627488@qq.com)
Li Li (lili.zzu@163.com)
Yanxia Gao (gaoyanxiazzu@163.com)
Guofeng Wu (961766797@qq.com)
Xiaohong Yu (fx888j@sina.com)
Weiqin Wei (weiweiqin2008@126.com)
Ying Deng (ldlrrr@163.com)
Fengping Wang (wangfengpingsix@163.com)
Hong Zhang (zanghong20070703@163.com)
Yun Zheng (Zhengyun1018@163.com)
Hong Zhan (zhanhong81@126.com)
Jinli Liao (13312862163@189.cn)
Yingping Tian (tianyingping-jzh@163.com)
Dongqi Yao (yaodongqi819@gmail.com)
Jingsong Zhang (zhangjso@sina.com)
Xufeng Chen (cxfyx@163.com)
Lishan Yang (nyfyls@126.com)
Jiali Wu (dbcoffee@163.com)
Yanfen Chai (chaiyanfen2012@126.com)
Songtao Shou (stshou66@sina.com)
Muming Yu (ricky4864582@qq.com)
Xudong Xiang (xudongx_99@hotmail.com)
Dongshan Zhang (zhkidney@qq.com)
Fengying Chen (fychen627@sohu.com)
Xiufeng Xie (xxfdzc3732@163.com)
Yong Li (Ly13333367871@163.com)
Bo Wang (hss-8966988@163.com)
Wenzhong Zhang (wenzhong120@126.com)
Dear editors,

Thank you for your valuable suggestions for our research protocol titled "The Efficacy of initial ventilation strategy for adult immunocompromised patients with severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure: study protocol for a multicentre randomized controlled trial (VENIM)". These comments were remarkably helpful for improving our protocol and paved way for our future RCT. The revised manuscript has been reviewed by all the authors. I’m looking forward to hearing from you again in the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Yi Li

Point by point answers to the comments:

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation

Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system. If your
documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

[Answer]: Copies of all ethical approval and funding approval related to this study protocol has been forwarded to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com with the subject of ‘Requested documentation for the submission to BMC Pulmonary Medicine - PULM-D-17-00238’.

2. Funding

A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/ award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

[Answer]: We confirm that our study protocol has never undergone peer-review by the funding body. Our study is funded by a governmental funding named the National Natural Science Foundation of China # 81550034 (Yi Li) and National Key Clinical Specialty Construction Program in 2012 (No. 20111204). The funder had no role in the study design and will not have any role in execution, analyses, interpretation of the data, or results publication.

3. Study Status

The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

[Answer]: We are still recruiting participants. Enrollment has started on January 2017. The estimated length of inclusion time is 24 months. It is expected that the study will be completed by December 2018.

4. Related Articles
Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

[Answer]: We stated that results of this study have never been published or submitted to any journal.

* If the protocol was independently reviewed, it should be in the proof of funding

[Answer]: The protocol was independently reviewed, which was added in the proof of funding.

* Trial Registration

It appears that your article reports the results of a controlled health-care intervention.

If this is so, please submit a revised version of your manuscript with the number included in the abstract. The last section of the abstract should be Trial Registration: listing the trial registry and the unique identifying number and the date of registration, e.g. Trial registration: Current Controlled Trials ISRCTN12345678. Registered 28 September 2004. Please note that there should be no space between the letters and numbers of the trial registration number.

[Answer]: Trial Registration section of the abstract has been revised as follows: Trial registration: ClinicalTrials.gov NCT02983851. Registered 2 September 2016.

We recommend manuscripts that report randomized controlled trials follow the CONSORT extension for abstracts (http://www.consort-statement.org/index.aspx?o=1190).

[Answer]: We follows the SPIRIT 2013 statement (http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/spirit-2013-statement-defining-standard-protocol-items-for-clinical-trials/), as our article is a study protocol of a randomized controlled trials.