Author’s response to reviews

Title: Study protocol: a randomised controlled trial on the clinical effects of levothyroxine treatment for subclinical hypothyroidism in people aged 80 years and over

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Dear Mr. Hickey and Ms. Dickens,

We would like to thank you for reviewing the submitted manuscript and the possibility to respond to your questions.

Please find our answers to your review comments below, under the original questions:

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, BMCeriesEditorial@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 BMCeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com."

The initial application approval from the Medical Ethics Committee is available in an English version. Unfortunately they do not translate approvals to additional amendments and only supply these in Dutch. The approvals of the competent authority to the primary application and all amendments were in English, however, as was the approval of the funding body. At your request copies of ethical and funding approval (in English) have been forwarded to BMCeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com on Tuesday 12-06-2018.

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. Please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body."
The protocol described in the manuscript has undergone international peer-review by the funding body (ZonMw). This is confirmed in writing in the translated approval letter that was forwarded to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com on Tuesday 12-06-2018.

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. Please confirm the current stage for your study."

We confirm that the current stage of our study is ongoing.

4. Please submit English language versions of all supplementary materials.

We have updated the manuscript appendices to English versions, and have supplied English versions of the additional files.

We are looking forward to your response.

Best regards,

Robert Du Puy, MD

Simon Mooijaart MD PhD