Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does packed red cell transfusion provide symptomatic benefits to cancer palliative patients?: a longitudinal study from a single private oncology center in Nepal

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Editor Comments:

• Please remove the Objectives heading from the Abstract
  ➢ Done as advised. Abstract section Line 30-32 Page 2

• PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

  GENERAL COMMENTS: Overall impression of the revision is good. Authors have responded the revision well. The title require correction: instead of packed cell, packed red cell is the scientifically and legally correct term.

  ➢ Done as advised. The new tile is: “Does packed red cell transfusion provide symptomatic benefits to cancer palliative patients?: a longitudinal study from a single private oncology center in Nepal”
  ➢ Also, same change has been made in the whole manuscript where appropriate.

• REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Minor issues.
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

One gram/dl elevation of Hemoglobin does not occur in all the patients, with transfusion of one unit of blood. It happens if the patient weight is about 70 Kgs and if the patient is 35 kgs expected elevation is double and if more than 70 kgs hemoglobin increment is less than 1gm/dl. And also authors has not mentioned whether the packed red cell is derived from 350 or 450 ml blood collection as it is important in estimating hemoglobin increment. The benefit of blood transfusion cannot be presumed if transfusion associated adverse reactions is not considered. Authors have agreed that they failed to report adverse reactions but they have observed reactions like thrombophlebitis and non-hemolytic febrile reacted but failed to give the number."

- The volume of packed red blood cell was 350ml. It has been included in the manuscript. Methods Section Page 6 line 113 and 115.
- The numerical values of transfusion reaction (thrombophlebitis and non-hemolytic febrile reaction) is noted. Result Section Page 8 Line 160-161
- As the reviewer rightly pointed out, the elevation of hemoglobin is not always 1gm/dL with every pint of packed red cell transfusion rather depends on the weight of the individual receiving transfusion. This fact however, was not considered and it was presumed that transfusion of 1 pint packed red cell increased the hemoglobin level by 1gm/dL in adult cancer palliative patients.