Author's response to reviews

Title: Pit excision with phenolisation of the sinus tract vs. radical excision in sacrococcygeal pilonidal sinus disease: study protocol for a single centre randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews:

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Trials

Utrecht, 23rd January 2015

Dear editor,

We would like to thank you again for the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript “Pit excision with phenolisation of the sinus tract vs. radical excision in sacrococcygeal pilonidal sinus disease: study protocol for a single centre randomized controlled trial” to Trials. We have carefully revised the previous version of our manuscript.

We have appreciated the additional comments of the reviewers. This has further elevated the quality of the manuscript. We have made the adaptations throughout the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments and discuss each item point-by-point in the attached response letter. The adaptations of the text are highlighted in the revised manuscript. The manuscript has been fully prepared according to the journal style.

We truly hope that the manuscript will be suitable for publication in Trials.
All authors are fully conversant with the revised manuscript.

Should you have any further questions regarding the revised version, please contact us through the aforementioned contact information.

Sincerely yours,

E.J.B. Furnée, MD, PhD
P.H.P. Davids, MD, PhD
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Editorial requests:

1. We have removed the funding information from the title page.

2. The trial status information has been removed from the abstract. The current trial status information has been updated on the page below the discussion (page 20, line 2).

3. The date of registration in the Dutch trial register has been added at the end of the abstract (page 3, line 7).

Reviewer #1:

Thank you very much again for your comment.

Ad 1. The statement with regard to the expression of continuous and categorical variables has been replaced by your suggestion (page 15, line 12-13).

Ad 2. The tenses throughout the manuscript have been checked again and changed where appropriate (page 11, line 5; page 11, line 17; page 12, line 10; page 12, line 14; page 12, line 15; page 15, line 16; page 15, line 19; page 16, line 8; page 17, line 22;
page 18, line 17)

Reviewer #3:

Thank you again for your comment.

Our apologies for not handling all your previous suggested revisions. We have changed all your current suggested revisions in the attached manuscript and respond to your comment point-by-point. We have really appreciated your detailed comments and suggestions to improve the manuscript. Additionally, we
have added a reference with regard to the SPIRIT guidelines in the revised manuscript (page 8, line 2 and page 26, line 18-21).

Ad 1. The date of trial registration has been added at the end of the abstract (page 3, line 7).

On request of the editor, the trial status has not been added to the Abstract. However, we have included the date the first patient was randomized on the page below the Discussion (page 20, line 2).

Ad 2. “SD” has been added on page 5, line 23.

Ad 3. “And/ or” has been replaced by “or” on page 10, line 4.

Ad 4. “Is” has been replaced by “are” and “factor” by “factors” on page 11, line 3.

Ad 5. “Population” has been removed on page 11, line 5-6.

Ad 6. “Is performed” has been replaced by “are measured” (page 12, line 7).

Ad 7. “Use” has been added on page 12, line 22.

Ad 8. “considerably interfere” has been rewritten as “interfere considerably” (page 12, line 23).

Ad 9. Indeed, the first author is the principal investigator. This has been added on page 13, line 12.

Ad 10. “Six-points” has been replaced by “six-point” on page 13, line 22 as well as on page 14, line 11.

Ad 11. We have replaced “yielded” by “obtained” (page 14, line 3).

Ad 12. “Promote” has been replaced by “encourage” on page 15, line 3.

Ad 13. “Illinois” has been replaced by “IL” (page 15, line 14).

Ad 14. A reference has been provided for the “Declaration of Helsinki” (page 16, line 8 and page 27, line 12-13).

Ad 15. Indeed, this is the year 2010, this has been replaced (page 17, line 3).

Ad 16. This item has been adapted on page 23, line 2.

Ad 17. “1” has been removed on page 27, line 8.