Author's response to reviews

Title: Topical Clobetasol for the Treatment of Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: Study Protocol for a Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Trials,

Thank you very much for your detailed and insightful review of our proposed clinical trial protocol “Topical clobetasol for the treatment of toxic epidermal necrolysis: study protocol for a randomized placebo-controlled trial” (MS # 1149667164138970) that was submitted in January 2015 and subsequently re-submitted with revisions in April 2015. We have received the reviewer comments from the journal regarding the revised manuscript and our point by point responses are provided below:

1. **Vasoconstrictive Properties of Topical Steroids and Possible Effect on Study Blinding:** Additional text was added to the discussion section highlighting the vasoconstrictive effect of topical steroids and potential compromise of the double blind trial design from this effect. However, as we outlined in our previous reply (and supported in the new added discussion text with references), the authors do not feel that this effect will be so significant as to invalidate the double blinded, split body design of the trial.

2. **Modification of Study Design to Specify Contralateral Areas of Skin (As Opposed to Contralateral Arms):** The manuscript has been proofed and corrected to ensure that this change has now been implemented throughout.

3. **Written Informed Consent From Children 12 and Older:** The protocol has been modified to add that assent in children between the ages of 12-17, in addition to written consent from a representative, will be considered during the consent process for study enrollment.

4. **Editorial Changes:** A number of minor changes have been made to reflect the Editor’s requests, as follows:

   - Title changed to “**Topical clobetasol for the treatment of toxic epidermal necrolysis: study protocol for a randomized placebo-controlled trial**” as per format of the journal
   - Author Contribution section corrected to include Dr. Kyoungmi Kim
   - Author names (Falin B Patel) corrected for consistency in the submission system to match the manuscript
   - Conflict of Interest statement removed from the Acknowledgements section
   - Tables (Table 1-Table 4) pasted into the main manuscript file at the end
Thank you again for the detailed review of our proposed trial protocol. Attached we have submitted the revised manuscript containing tables (1-4) for your review. We look forward to hearing any further comments and suggested changes for manuscript revision in order to make it suitable for publication in your esteemed journal.

Sincerely,

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