**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Remote ischemic conditioning in ST-elevation myocardial infarction as adjuvant to primary angioplasty (RIC-STEMI): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Herein we would like to submit the revised manuscript of the original article entitled "Remote ischemic conditioning in ST-elevation myocardial infarction as adjuvant to primary angioplasty (RIC-STEMI): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial" with the reference number MS: 1887740735160937.

We carefully read the reviewer’s comments regarding our manuscript and we would like to address the questions that have been raised.

The reviewer #1 evaluated our manuscript and provided an overall negative review saying that the results of our trial would not bring anything new to the field of RIC. To support this statement, the reviewer cited the article of Sloth et al. reporting the extended follow-up of the original study by Botker et al. (1 e 2). However, the study was not originally powered to evaluate the impact of RIC on hard clinical endpoints, needing confirmation from larger trials, as assumed by the authors themselves. Very recently, in two state-of-the-art reviews published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, the most eminent experts in the field of reperfusion injury and RIC reported the necessity of large trials to evaluate the clinical impact of RIC and others strategies aimed at reducing the reperfusion injury (3 e 4).

In order to further clarify background and rationale we reviewed the introduction section.

The reviewer #1 did not point any other issue that we could reply to.

We joined a SPIRIT checklist file to the revised manuscript as requested.

Hope we adequately answered the questions raised by the reviewer and that our revised manuscript can meet the criteria for publication in Trials.

Looking forward to your reply at your best convenience, we remain,

Sincerely yours, on behalf of all authors,

António Gaspar, MD
References


