Author’s response to reviews

Title: Drugs discontinuation before contrast procedures and the effect on acute kidney injury and other clinical outcomes: a systematic review protocol

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Version: 2  Date: 08 Feb 2018

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Reviewer reports:

From the methods, both randomized and non-randomized studies will be eligible as evidence. The authors also plan meta-analysis. Is this meant to apply only to the randomized studies? Or do the authors plan on also pooling across the non-randomized studies, or even pooling randomized with non-randomized studies? If it is only randomized studies to be pooled, then the methods are sufficient (and all that is needed is a sentence indicating that the meta-analytic portion of this is restricted to only the randomized studies). If it is either of the other possibilities, then more detail is needed, since pooling across nonrandomized studies presents its own set of challenges, and pooling across study designs is even more challenging.

Author response:

Thank you for the comment. Indeed, we do expect to retrieve both observational studies and randomized controlled trials, and do plan to perform quantitative synthesis.
- If, for any given intervention/exposure, we retrieve both trials and observational studies, the meta-analysis will be performed separately.

- We will follow the MOOSE guidelines for the synthesis of observational studies.

- We will only proceed with meta-analysis for observational studies if the studies are not clinically heterogenous.

We have added these details to the methods section (lines 243 – 247)