Author’s response to reviews

Title: Influence of adjuvant antibiotics on fistula formation following incision and drainage of anorectal abscesses: A systematic review protocol

Authors:
Laura Baker (laurbaker@toh.ca)
Lara Williams (larwilliams@toh.ca)
Remington Winter (rwint065@uottawa.ca)
Caitlin Cahill (ccahill@toh.ca)
Alexandra Davis (adavis@toh.ca)
Dean Fergusson (dafergusson@ohri.ca)

Version: 3 Date: 23 Jan 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

The sentence "We will not pool across study types due to their differential risks of bias" should be removed to the synthesis section. The statement is still a bit unclear. Does that mean that you intend to pool all observational study types, for example? This might imply that you would need to pool cohort studies and case-control studies.

Thank you for this comment. To eliminate the confusion, we have removed the sentence of concern from the manuscript. Sentence 264 was revised to state that "Studies will be grouped into the following subgroups for further analysis:...study design." This clarifies that studies conducted via the same design will be grouped together. To answer the reviewers question, we do not intent to pool studies of differing designs together.

Laura