

## **Response to reviewers**

We thank the reviewers for their positive comments on our manuscript (No. 55648). Please see our responses to the comments below.

### **Reviewer #1**

*This is a well-written relevant study. Although the information is limited given the lack of trials regarding zinc I believe this is a useful article for the field as it contains good background information.*

*I have some minor comments: In table 1 below the primary outcome I would suggest that you add another line with the actual results, meaning did HE improved? Survival? etc. This will help with the description of the table.*

### **Response**

An additional line has been added to table 1 as recommended.

*There are no figure legends, therefore I suggest to add them with a small explanation of what we see in the figures.*

### **Response**

Figure legends have been included as recommended.