June 4, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16292-review.doc).

Title: How to impute study-specific standard deviations in meta-analyses of skewed continuous endpoints

Author: Teresa Greco, Giuseppe Biondi-Zoccai, Marco Gemma, Claude Guérin, Alberto Zangrillo, Giovanni Landoni

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16292

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of Reviewers:
1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the Reviewer

   (1) Reviewer 02456031
        The study addresses a very interesting topic and deals with a major concern for investigators who have to perform a meta-analysis from published studies. Methodology appears to be accurate. The presentation of the results is clear, although it may be simplified for a general (non-expert) reader, who might be interested in such a current topic. Figure 1 and 2 should be redrawn. Lines should be identified with different patterns. English style and grammar need to be revised in depth.
        REPLY: We thank the Reviewer for his/her suggestion. We have now simplified the results to better clarify our conclusion to non-expert reader.
        Figures 1 and 2, in the supplemental material files, show the standardized estimates of each distribution and of each imputation method we considered. Each method is depicted with a different color. In our opinion this should suffice to clearly identify each line. We think that further redraw, including a different symbol for each line, risks to cofound the reader.
        The manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an English native speaker.

   (2) Reviewer 00503176
        It is a valuable contribution. There are language errors scattered across the manuscript - typing errors, spelling errors, ocassionally gramatical and syntax errors. I suggest that you should carefully read the mansucript or consult an English editor. I have no essential comments or remarks on the topic, methods or results presentation.
        REPLY: We thank the Reviewer for his/her comment. We have now substantially edited the manuscript to amend English errors.. The manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an English native speaker.

   (3) Reviewer 02446196
        Considerable language editing is needed. The authors need to carefully review all references - there are 2 reference #10 and no reference #11.
        REPLY: We thank the Reviewer for his/her comment. We have now reviewed and corrected all

references.
The manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an English native speaker.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Meta-Analysis.*

Sincerely yours,

Teresa Greco, MSc,
Laboratorio di Statistica Medica, Biometria ed Epidemiologia "G. A. Maccacaro", Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche e di Comunità, University of Milan, Via A. Vanzetti 5, 20133 Milan, Italy.
Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Department, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Via Olgettina 60, 20132 Milan, Italy.
greco.teresa@hotmail.it
+39.02.2643.6153