RESPONSE TO LETTER
Re: “A note on unmasking”
Dr. Berger states that “unmasking” may lead to allocation bias (“selection bias” is his term) [1]. In our article on the reporting of risk of unblinding in trial publications [2], we followed a convention of distinguishing between “blinding” and “allocation concealment.” Allocation concealment is usually understood as the procedures to mask the person responsible for patient inclusion to the allocation sequence (ie, before and during patient inclusion). Blinding is usually understood as the procedures to mask investigators and patients to the allocated interventions (ie, after patient inclusion). Thus, we did not address concealment of allocation or risk of allocation bias. Dr. Berger’s letter reveals an interesting conceptual variation in how “blinding” should best be defined.

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References


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