Author's response to reviews

Title: The influence of statin exposure on inflammatory markers in patients with early bacterial infection: pilot prospective cohort study.

Authors:

Manu Shankar-Hari (manu.shankar-hari@kcl.ac.uk)
Antonia Donnelly (tonia.donnelly@nhs.net)
Ruxandra Pinto (ruxandra.pinto@sunnybrook.ca)
Zaid Salih (zaidsalih@hotmail.co.uk)
Cathrine McKenzie (catherine.mckenzie@gstt.nhs.uk)
Marius Terblanche (marius.terblanche@kcl.ac.uk)
Neill KJ Adhikari (neill.adhikari@utoronto.ca)

Version: 2
Date: 13 May 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
13 May 2014

The Editor
BMC Anesthesiology

Dear Sir or Madam.


Please find attached for your consideration the above mentioned manuscript in which we report the results of a pilot, prospective cohort study performed to inform the design of a planned trial. During the study patients who were admitted to a single-centre and treated on acute (non-ICU) wards for an infection were followed to establish the nature history of their disease, signs of inflammation, need for ICU admission, and outcomes. We were also interested in any potential modifiable influence of prior statin use.

Our results show that these ward patients had a low risk of clinical deterioration, inflammatory markers improved over time, and statin exposure was not associated with any outcome. We believe these results are important as they inform future trials targeting patients with early sepsis with interventions designed to prevent deterioration. Specifically, the data suggest that plausible, validated surrogate endpoints will be required, or that these studies will require substantial sample sizes to be adequately powered.

I can confirm that none of the authors have any conflicts of interest to declare in relation to this work.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification.

Many thanks for assessing our manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Marius Terblanche
Division of Asthma, Allergy and Lung Biology, King’s College London;
Critical Illness Dynamic Systems Collaboration, King’s Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre;
Department of Critical Care Medicine, 1st Floor, East Wing, St. Thomas’ Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH, UK
marius.terblanche@kcl.ac.uk