Author's response to reviews

Title: Upstream therapy with statin and recurrence of atrial fibrillation after electrical cardioversion. Review of the literature and meta-analysis.

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Version: 4 Date: 24 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
To Professor Timothy Shipley

Editor in Chief of the *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*

Thank you for considering our manuscript of interest for the readers of “BMC Cardiovascular disorders”. We revised the manuscript according to referees’ suggestions. A list of changes is detailed below. I hope we have adequately answered to your requests.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Loffredo

and

Francesco Violi

Full Professor of Internal Medicine

Chair, I Clinica Medica Università “La Sapienza”
Reviewer's report 1

Title: Upstream therapy with statin and recurrence of atrial fibrillation after electrical cardioversion. Review of the literature and meta-analysis.
Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2012
Reviewer: giovanni davi
Reviewer's report:
The work of Loffredo and colleagues is a metaanalysis of six studies investigating the effect of upstream statin therapy on atrial fibrillation recurrence after electrical cardioversion.
Minor issue:
Figure 1: the relative reference number should be provided, in addition to study name.
Answer: amended as requested (see Figure 2 and Table).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interes

Reviewer's report
Title: Upstream therapy with statin and recurrence of atrial fibrillation after electrical cardioversion. Review of the literature and meta-analysis.
Version: 1 Date: 5 October 2012
Reviewer: Franjo Naji
Reviewer's report:
Minor essential revisions

On page 8 authors state that there is moderate heterogeneity among included studies, however on page 10 in limitations section the term great heterogeneity is used. Please revise or clarify.
- Answer: we clarified the confounding sentence (see page 10, lines 22-23).

In limitations section female gender is described as a potential risk for AF recurrence. Based on CHADSVASC female gender is a risk factor for thrombembolic complications, whereas a connection with AF recurrence is
questionable. Please revise or clarify.
- **Answer:** we revised the confounding sentence (see page 10, lines 20-21).

Authors state: 'Intervention treatment started from randomization day to 3 weeks before EC (Table 1)'. I couldn't find the described data in the Table. It would be of importance to describe the period of statin treatment before EC since it may also have impact on AF recurrence afterwards.

**Answer:** amended as requested (see Table).

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.