Author's response to reviews

Title: Prehypertension increases risk for carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation in community population of Southern China

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors:

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “Prehypertension increases risk for carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation in community population of Southern China” for a publication as a original research article in BMC Public Health.

The blood pressure (BP) level preceding hypertension has been found to be associated with increased cardiovascular events and clustering with multiple vascular risk factors. It may also be associated with significant carotid atherosclerosis independently. Whether carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation increases in the BP preceding hypertension is still unclear.

In this study, we had a novel finding that the blood pressure level preceding hypertension had already been associated with significant carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation independent of other vascular risk factors. The carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation in prehypertension (normal and high-normal BP) was as severe as that in hypertension. Moreover, for no difference was found in the carotid atherosclerotic plaque formation between normal BP and high normal BP according to ESH/ESC-2007 criteria, therefore, as combination, prehypertension according to JNC-7 criteria tended to better stratify the risk of carotid atherosclerosis for primary prevention of ischemic stroke in middle-aged and elderly community population in Southern China. The data indicated that prehypertension may also have potential risk for carotid atherosclerosis, it may in part account for the association between prehypertension and increased stroke risk.

We declare that all data in this manuscript are our own work. To the best of our knowledge, this manuscript has not been published in any other journals. We have reviewed the final version of the manuscript and approved it for publication. All authors have read and approved to submit it to your journal. There is no conflict of interest of any authors in relation to the submission.

We are looking forward to your comments and the acceptance of the manuscript.

Best regards.

Yours Sincerely,

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