Author's response to reviews

Title: Incidence of catheter-related complications in patients with central venous or hemodialysis catheters: a health care claims database analysis

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Timothy Shipley
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Dear Dr Shipley,

On behalf of my coauthors, I am pleased to re-submit for possible publication in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders our manuscript entitled, “Incidence of catheter-related complications in patients with central venous or hemodialysis catheters: a health care claims database analysis.” Following Mr. Ballesteros request to include an ethics statement, we have revised the methods section of the manuscript to now include the following text:

This database links outpatient insurance claims via unique encrypted patient identifiers, and is used extensively by health and outcomes researchers for clinical decision support and healthcare resource allocation planning, and to study epidemiologic patterns. In compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), all patient data used in this study were de-identified. The project was therefore exempt from Institutional Review Board approval.

Patients requiring central venous catheterization are at increased risk of developing catheter-related complications. Existing studies in this area are characterized by great variability and the findings are generally limited to specific types of complications and to an adult population. The current study uses a consistent methodological approach to identify and describe the incidence rates of the major catheter-related complication events in a large, geographically diverse US patient cohort that includes both adults and children at different time periods following catheterization. This new body of data provides valuable information for improved medical care in patients with central venous or hemodialysis catheters.

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Thank you for your consideration of our revised manuscript. We sincerely hope the changes adequately address your concerns so that the peer review process can proceed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

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