Response to Reviewers

Reviewer #1: Gregory Lip

1. We believe the issue of the patient's age and systolic BP in this study is not of great importance for several reasons:
   First, since 1999 the Canadian guidelines for the management of high blood pressure states that, regardless of age, the target systolic blood pressure for patients being treated for hypertension is <140 mmHg.
   Second, we only chose people for the studies if their blood pressure was ≥ 140 mmHg (or ≥ 90 diastolic).
   Third, since we are only reporting on people who have a diagnosis of hypertension (not the general population) and since the target is the same for all ages, it doesn't matter if all the patients are over 80 or under 40 or whatever.... the target is < 140.

Having said all of that, the following are the mean systolic BPs by age group:

- Age 40 and less ....143.8 mmHg
- Age 41 to 60 ......145.7 mmHg
- Age 61 to 80 ...... 149.8 mmHg
- Age 81 and older ... 151.6 mmHg

As expected it goes up with age. However the target for all four groups is <140 and on average they have not achieved that target...which is also expected since we chose only people who had not achieved target (diastolic or systolic).

Interestingly the mean diastolic BP went down as age increased.

We have included these data in Table 1.

2. These patient are enrolled in pragmatic effectiveness trials. The patients are on the drugs that their physicians have prescribed...they certainly do not have "adequate/optimal drug therapy in a uniform manner". In fact, the underlying hypothesis is that drug treatment is sub-optimal and the trials are looking at ways to improve management in primary care. What we are doing in this report is looking at the relationship between office measured blood pressures and BPs on 24 hour ABPM.
3. We do not have many details on medications and co-morbidity at this point. We do know that 18% have diabetes and 100% are on at least one medications. This has been added to the manuscript.

Reviewer #2: Bernard Waeber
Thank you for your review of this article.