Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between blood pressure measurements recorded on patients' charts in family physicians' offices and subsequent 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2003

Reviewer: Bernard Waeber

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Relationship between BP measurements recorded on patients' charts in family physicians' offices and subsequent 24h ambulatory BP monitoring.

Marshall Godwin

This study confirms many previous observations which have indicated that it is more difficult to control systolic than diastolic blood pressure.

It would have been better to choose for the analysis a target of <140/90 mmHg rather than =140/90 mmHg. The official recommendations are based on the <140/90 mmHg limit.

How was blood pressure measured in the physicians' offices. Posture ? Manual sphygmomanometry ? I guess that many readings ended by 0 or 5. The figures would probably be very different using the <140/90 mmHg target.

How many measurements were available at each visit ? Were the last three reading used for the analysis obtained on different visits ?

Different target blood pressures were used for office readings in patients with diabetes and renal disease. This is fine, but what about the criteria for ABPM in those patients ?

Background, first paragraph : not clear

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None