Author's response to reviews

Title: One Year Follow-up of Patients with Refractory Angina Pectoris Treated with Enhanced External Counterpulsation

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Thank You for the e-mail regarding the manuscript No. 6011009829142429, entitled “One Year Follow-up of Patients with Refractory Angina Pectoris Treated with Enhanced External Counterpulsation” by Pettersson et al., for publication as an original article in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

Below is a list with the changes made in the manuscript that has been performed following the reviewers’ suggestions. All the queries have been taken care of as follows:

**Reviewer 1**

**Minor Essential Revisions**

The manuscript has been gone through by a person how speaks English, and language corrections have been made throughout the manuscript.

1. A statement has been made in the design section that the patients included in the study, were consecutively treated patients. “Method section”, “patients in the study”, 2nd line, page 5.

2. The eight patients that experienced adverse events during the EECP treatment have been added to the total number of patients that initially were included in the study. These patients are not included in the follow-up results. This has been clarified in the “Method section”, first paragraph, page 5.

3. The reason for termination of the treatment of the patients with forward heart failure has been clarified in the “Result section”, end of paragraph 3, page 7.

4. The misspelling, nitroglycerin and anticoagulants have been corrected throughout the manuscript.

5. “Ad mortem” has been replaced with death and the misspelling of hemorrhoidal has been corrected in Table 3.

6. The notification of *** p<0.001 in the figure 1 legend has been removed.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. Cardiac events that occurred during the follow-up period has been added in the “Result section”, 1st paragraph, last line, page 7.
Reviewer 2
Minor Essential Revisions

1. The two patients died of myocardial infarction and showed no signs of progressive heart failure.

2. A comment on the discrepancy of clinical data and missing pathophysiological explanation for the long-term effects has been added in the “Discussion section”, in a new paragraph. 5th paragraph, page 10-11.

Reviewer 3
Major Essential Revisions

1. We agree with the referee that the results from a study can be a placebo effect if patients undergo special attention during the study period. Although, the patient in the present study did not receive any special attention during the follow-up period, as compared to patients with refractory angina pectoris that undergoes other treatments (e.g. medical therapy, SCS). Thus this concern is not applicable in the present study.

2. The facts that the present study only fulfills the criteria for follow-up report with low EBM-score has been stated in a new paragraph “Limitation of the study”, that has been added to the “Discussion section”, last paragraph, page 11.

3. The reviewer’s suggestion of conducting a study with a control-group receiving another treatment is very interesting. We do treat patients with refractory angina with SCS in Kristianstad and we have started a study comparing the outcomes of the two treatments.

4. The discussion has been shortened as the reviewer suggested.

5. The frequency of nitroglycerin-consumption is of interest, this information has been added to Table 1, as the reviewer suggested.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Figure I and II have been explained more thoroughly in the figure legends.

2. We have added more references concerning SCS, grasses epidural anesthesia and left stellat ganglium blockades.
We hope that the manuscript can now be accepted for publication in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

Yours sincerely,

Angelica Wackenfors, PhD