Author's response to reviews

Title: Systematic review of methods for individual patient data meta analysis with binary outcomes

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

Enclosed is a manuscript entitled “Systematic review of methods for individual patient data meta-analysis with binary outcomes” by Doneal Thomas, Sanyath Radji and Andrea Benedetti, to be considered for publication as a review article in BMC Medical Research Methodology.

This article demonstrates that a diversity of methods are employed when dealing with individual patient data meta-analyses for binary outcomes. Evidence from this systematic review shows that the use of binary outcomes in assessing the effects of health care problems, as well as the quantification and report of heterogeneity has increased, with random effects logistic regression the most common method of analysis. The statistical approach taken, along with justification for that approach, is still often not reported in sufficient detail. Standardized guidelines both for the best approach to use, as well as what details to report may be needed in this area.

We declare that this manuscript has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere.

We wish to confirm that there is no conflict of interest associated with this article and there has been no significant financial support for this work that could have influenced its finding. This manuscript has been read and approved by all named authors above.

We have attached a completed PRISMA checklist and made some correction as requested by the editorial office. Because the subject of our review is statistical methods, the PRISMA guidelines do not completely apply. As such, there are quite a few NAs.
We do hope you find this manuscript suitable for publication in the Journal and look forward to hearing from you.

Anticipatory thanks.

Sincerely,

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