Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect of treating periodontitis on C-reactive Protein levels: a pilot study

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Version: 3 Date: 27 Oct 2002

PDF covering letter
BMC Journals

Dear Sirs

We thank the reviewer for his valuable comments and the Editorial Office for the opportunity to reply to them.

We have revised the manuscript accordingly:

- the title has been changed as suggested by the Editors.
- the possibility that the results may reflect some individuals’ susceptibility to the harmful effect of periodontitis has been added to the Introduction (page 3, line 5 from the bottom)
- the fact that only one patient given metronidazole showed a 50% decrease in CRP levels has been added in the Results (page 6, line 7, Discussion page 7, line 8 from bottom)
- the Results has been rewritten (and the Introduction has been shortened)
- the analyses concerning confounders and the corresponding text have been deleted from the Methods and Results
- Table 1 has been subdivided in moderate and severe periodontitis and the mean change in CRP and fibrinogen levels is given
- the reason for excluding one patient is written in the Results as requested by the reviewer (page 6, line 7)
- the discrepancy in effects on CRP and fibrinogen: usually these parameters show an equal association with CHD and various infections. The matter is now discussed and a new reference 7 is given (page 7, line 7 from bottom)
- as was already written in the manuscript, 2 mg/l is the 95th percentile limit for CRP; reference for this is now given (page 5, line 5). Of note, the statistical analysis behind the main result - the decrease in CRP levels – is not based on the use of any cut off point.
- periods are used for separation of decimals

We hope that you will find the revised manuscript acceptable for publication.

Yours sincerely

Kimmo Mattila
MD, PhD