Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidemiologic trends in chronic renal replacement therapy over forty years: A Swiss experience

Authors:

Petra Rhyn (rhyn.lehmann@gmx.ch)
Manon Ambuehl (manon.ambuehl@bluewin.ch)
Domenica Corleto (domenica.corleto@waid.zuerich.ch)
Richard Klaghofer (richard.klaghofer@usz.ch)
Patrice M Ambuehl (patrice.ambuehl@waid.zuerich.ch)

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Cover letter

Re: Manuscript No. 2000194877658062 (“Epidemiologic trends in chronic renal replacement therapy over forty years: A Swiss experience”)

Dear Hayley

Thank you very much for your primary assessment of our manuscript mentioned above. Please, find enclosed our revised and electronically resubmitted manuscript.

This is a point by point summary of changes performed:

1. Ethical approval
   A statement with regard to ethical approval has been added on page 7 in the “Methods” section. Please, note, that gathering, analysis and publication of this kind of retrospective data of patients from institutions and/or by authors affiliated with the University of Zurich (UZH) are granted a general waiver by the ethics committee of the UZH. PMA, as the senior and responsible author, is affiliated with the faculty of Medicine of the University of Zurich (professorship). Moreover, the Stadtspital Waid, from whose patients data were derived, is a teaching hospital affiliated with the UZH. Under these given circumstances no specific approvals are required or issued by the UZH’s ethics committee.

2. New sections
   New paragraphs on “Competing Interests” and “Authors’ Contributions” have been added on page 19. No changes have been performed in the “Acknowledgements” paragraph.

3. Tables
   Tables have been restructured as requested (no shadings, no vertical lines).

4. Figures
   All figures have been moved to files separately uploaded from the main body of the manuscript. Figure legends, instead, have been moved to the main body after the “References” section (page 23).

I hope that these modifications will satisfy the editorial requests. Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Nephrology. I’m looking forward to your decision.

Sincerely yours

Patrice Ambühl