Author's response to reviews

Title: Atrial Fibrillation in Chronic Dialysis Patients in the United States: Risk Factors for Hospitalization and Mortality.

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Response to reviewers:

We appreciate the comments of the editors and reviewers, which were quite helpful. Our itemized response appears below:

Reviewer #3 (Dr. Korzets)

1. The discussion section on controversies in coumadin use was shortened. However, since this is really the crux of the article, we have still included a substantial portion of these sections.
2. All discretionary and compulsory changes were made.
3. Correction of Table 1: the number of patients in each quartile are now specified. The numbers in each group are not equal because of the skewed age distribution in this population.
4. We have deleted the rows in Table 1 for cancer and BMI.
5. We have specified the values for quartiles of pre dialysis systolic blood pressure (also specified in Table 2).
6. We have deleted EPO and CXR, as well as "p. Table 2: We have deleted the % sign in the table heading.
8. The numbers in the right column are the N and % (in parenthesis) of patients with a given factor who were hospitalized for atrial fibrillation during the study. Thus, among patients age 71 years or more, 76, or 8.7% of them, were hospitalized for atrial fibrillation during the study. We have tried to express this more clearly in the Table legend.
9. The figures for LVH by echocardiography are derived from the DMMS II facility questionnaire, which was filled out by clinical personnel participating in the study. The question was, "Complete with information closest to study start date (A7) from a period of up to 3 months before study start date (A7) and one month after study start date (A7+ 30 days): left ventricular hypertrophy by echocardiography, yes or no." We can forward a PDF copy of the questionnaire if needed. It is also available on the internet from www.usrds.org, researcher's guide, questionnaires to special studies.

We would again like to thank the editors and reviewers for their thoughtful comments, time, and effort.

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