Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimating lifetime economic burden of stroke according to the age of onset in South Korea: a cost of illness study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Journal Editorial Board,

Please consider the revised attached paper, “ESTIMATING LIFETIME ECONOMIC BURDEN OF STROKE ACCORDING TO THE AGE OF ONSET IN SOUTH KOREA: A COST OF ILLNESS STUDY” for publication in the BMC Public Health.

Please find attached revised manuscript with tracked changes which addressed points that you commented as followings:

1. Please include the source of data.
   [Authors’ response] Manuscript line 171-173: As we already mentioned the source of data in previous submission, we did not add more details. To answer your question, we used the Korean National Health Insurance (NHI) claims database to estimate the resource utilization and costs.

2. How they were obtained.
   [Authors’ response] Manuscript line 174-176 (revised): Since this study was funded by the Korea Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Family Affairs, we were able to obtain the NHI claims data through a formal request process to the Korean National Health Insurance Corporation.
3. Quality of data.
[Authors’ response] Manuscript line 344-352 (revised): The quality of NHI claims database is known to be high in terms of representativeness and generalizability. Additional explanations are detailed in the manuscript.

4. Limitation of databases.
[Authors’ response] Manuscript line 344-352 (revised): There could be a validity issue of diagnostic coding for stroke in NHI claims database since this is an administrative claims database. Additional explanations are detailed in the manuscript.

5. Processes for privacy and ethical issues.
[Authors’ response] Manuscript line 184-187 (revised): The NHI claims database contained de-identified identification number and authors were not able to determine the individual’s identity. Additional explanations are detailed in the manuscript.

This study is the first to estimate the lifetime costs of stroke in Korea reflecting the recent trend of stroke occurrence toward younger population. We expect our study results raise the awareness of the economic burden of stroke which might not be limited only in Korea and provide rationales to public health policy makers to develop effective prevention and management strategies for stroke.

The accompanying paper represents original, unpublished material not under editorial consideration elsewhere. Ethical guidelines were followed in the conduct of the research. All authors do not have any competing interests to declare in relationship to this manuscript.

We thank you for your time in reviewing this manuscript and look forward to the review.

Best Regards,

Hae Sun Suh, on behalf of the co-authors

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