Author's response to reviews

Title: The comparative effectiveness of statin therapy in selected chronic diseases compared with the remaining population

Authors:

   Xia Sheng (xia@memo.dundee.ac.uk)
   Michael J Murphy (m.j.murphy@dundee.ac.uk)
   Thomas M MacDonald (tom@memo.dundee.ac.uk)
   Li Wei (li@memo.dundee.ac.uk)

Version: 5 Date: 2 August 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Prof Paulo Lotufo
Associate Editor
BMC Public Health

Dear Prof Lotufo

Re: 2142139658647609 - The comparative effectiveness of statin therapy in selected chronic diseases compared with the remaining population

Thank you very much for your letter of 13th July 2012. We enclose a revised manuscript with major changes highlighted in red. We also include a point-by-point response to the reviewer’s comments and hope that the revised paper is now suitable for publication.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Li Wei on behalf of co-authors
Reviewer's report
Title: The comparative effectiveness of statin therapy in selected chronic
diseases compared with the remaining population
Version: 4 Date: 6 July 2012
Reviewer: G. B. John Mancini
Reviewer's report:
Major, Compulsory Revisions: Figure 3 should be complemented in the main
paper by a similar figure based on Total Mortality.

Answer: We have added Figure 3 in the revised paper as the reviewer suggested.

Discretionary Revisions (at the direction of the editors): The conclusions of the
abstract and the discussion are quite uninteresting as already stated many times.

Answer: We have revised the discussions section in the manuscript.

The implications of this work go far beyond the chosen primary focus of the
authors. As this is not a randomized clinical trial and as all the outcomes are
described as a group and as "major outcomes" (see methods, there is no
indication, nor is there a need to indicate primary and secondary end-points), the obsession with
highlighting TC as opposed to clinical outcome remains
perplexing to this reviewer.

Answer: We appreciate the reviewer’s comment. We have revised the manuscript and tried to make
it clear. However, as stated in the last responses to the comments, the present study was a
comparison of effectiveness of statin therapy in different disease populations. Therefore the results
may not be simple as a single study. We think that providing more information on outcome will help
readers to understand the relationship between statins and diseases in detail. We feel that to change
the primary outcome at publication stage is not scientifically robust.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests