Author's response to reviews

Title: A one-year observational study of all hospitalized and fatal acute poisonings in Oslo: Epidemiology, intention and follow-up

Authors:

Cathrine Lund (cathrlu@gmail.com)
Brita Teige (brita.teige@medisin.uio.no)
Per Drottning (per.drottning@lds.no)
Birgitte Stiksrud (bistik@ous-hf.no)
Tor Olav Rui (ruto@lds.no)
Marianne Lyngra (marianne.lyngra@ahu.no)
Øivind Ekeberg (uxoiek@ous-hf.no)
Dag Jacobsen (uxdaja@ous-hf.no)
Knut Erik Hovda (k.e.hovda@medisin.uio.no)

Version: 5 Date: 21 September 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor of BMC Public Health

Date: 20th September, 2012

Dear Editor

We would like to thank you for your response to our manuscript.

Reviewer II (Anna Jönsson):

Major compulsory revision:

1. As the population in Oslo is increasing and the hospitals in Oslo have little room to expand, the responsibility for a small group of residents living in Eastern Oslo has been transferred to Akershus University Hospital, located just outside Oslo. As such, including these patients was necessary to obtain a complete picture of the poisoning pattern in Oslo. However, as only roughly 10% of the patients treated at Akershus University Hospital are Oslo residents, including patients without residency in Oslo would bias the results. One could argue that including only Oslo residents at all the hospitals would be most correct. However, it is common in Norway to avoid reregistering residence upon moving because of tax benefits for
Minor essential revisions:

2. As explained in the Background, the change was that paracetamol was made available over-the-counter outside pharmacies (in gas stations and convenient stores around-the-clock), but in packages of only 10 grams. In the abstract, “a change to” has been changed to “the introduction of”, to harmonize the wording. We have also added “outside pharmacies” throughout the manuscript. Although the most precise wording would be “After the introduction of OTC sales outside pharmacies available around-the-clock in packages of 10 grams”, we believe this wording is quite heavy and that this only needs to explained once. However, as many readers read the Conclusion first, we believe that the Conclusion should be as precise as the Background.

As for the quality of the written English, the manuscript has been reviewed and edited by the academic English proofreading service Online English (www.onlineenglish.com).

Sincerely yours,

Knut Erik Hovda, MD, PhD
National NBC-center, Department of Acute Medicine
Oslo University Hospital, Ullevaal
Oslo, Norway
(Corresponding author)
knuterikhovda@gmail.com / k.e.hovda@medisin.uio.no